

EWAN



**WATCH OUT FOR
THE PSYCHOBABBLER!**

FIRSTTM NOTES

KEEPING A GOOD THING GOING

When my old buddy Mike Grell called me, oh about sixteen months ago, and told me **Starslayer** was available — this was after we had agreed to do **Jon Sable, Freelance** — I felt like I was slapped in the face with a twenty pound bag of *deja vu*.

Now It Can Be Told — the secret origin of **Starslayer**. Not the hero, the comic book.

If you just happen to have a photographic memory or you keep on file every word ever published in comics fanzine news columns, you probably remember an announcement — made by me on behalf of my then-employer — about the brand-new title coming from DC Comics: **Starslayer**. The highly-talented Ross Andru was to be editor, and Ross and I worked rather closely in promoting Mike's exciting new character. Shortly after we made that announcement, DC endured a rather massive series of cut-backs and

schedule changes, causing two immediate effects on Mike's life: **Starslayer** was cancelled, and the Warlord (Mike's other creation for DC) went monthly. Retroactively monthly, in fact. So, Mike was placed in the position of suddenly being a zillion weeks late. I helped Mike regain the rights to his character — after all, DC had no use for **Starslayer**.

Well, one thing led to another and about nine months later, Mike and I were going to make **Starslayer** the lead feature in a new, slick monthly magazine. But about twelve hours after receiving the "final" go-ahead, our distributor got cold feet (somebody convinced them we were going to do porno; obviously, somebody who doesn't know either Mike or me very well). Since both of us had other commitments at that time, the magazine died and the energy that would have gone into it ultimately (from my end) was converted into First Comics.

We did share one other **Starslayer** event: after learning that another Big Name Artist, who shall remain nameless, was planning on coming out with a character named Starslayer, we took sufficient steps necessary to secure Mike's rights to the title and to inform the Big Name Artist of his mistake.

After that, Mike did a **Starslayer** portfolio for Pacific Comics, and signed on to do a six-issue comic book run at about the same time.

By now, Mike and I had been using the word "Starslayer" the way one talks about an errant child. So when Mike suggested First Comics pick up **Starslayer** with issue seven, I didn't know whether to question *his* sanity or *mine*.

Mike immediately picked up on my trepidation. "No, I don't mean I'm going to try and do 56 pages of story and art a month (**Starslayer** and **Jon Sable, Freelance**); I'll write the follow-up stories and provide the breakdowns, and we'll find somebody fantastic to take over the art chores."

Terrific. We signed the papers, started work on **Jon Sable**, and put the whole thing in a drawer until "somebody fantastic" showed up.

Then Lenin Delsol walked into our lives.

We had been working with Lenin, and I sent Mike photocopies of his pencils on the Sargon story in **Warp #1**. Mike called me about eighty seconds after opening the package.

I don't want to quote Mike — after all, he *is* a friend — but what it all boiled down to was, if we didn't sign Lenin up to pencil **Starslayer**, Mike would do

unspeakable things to us with an elephant gun.

Great. Now all we needed was an inker.

Shortly after Lenin delivered his first pencils on the issue, Mike Gustovich called me up. Bob McLeod was shifting over from pencil artist to inker on Marvel's X-Men spin-off book, *The New Mutants*, and Mike wanted to know if we just might possibly have some work.

Now I have respected Gustovich's work ever since he showed up in Power Comics, a fairly short-lived semi-professional comic book that brought us the works of Dave Sim and Wendy and Richard Pini, among others. And I respected his work as editor, writer, inker and co-owner of *The Justice Machine*, another first-class semi-professional comic book series. So Joe Staton, in his capacity as art director, and I talked it over. Gustovich is talented, and has a style somewhat similar to Grell's. So, Gustovich got the assignment, and we had our **Starslayer** team.

And now you have our first issue of **Starslayer**. Just a bit over five years after Mike Grell first layed the concept on me.

Now the fun *really* begins.

— Mike Gold

Rick Obadiah, Publisher

Mike Gold, Managing Editor

Joe Staton, Art Director

Rick Oliver, Associate Editor

Bruce Patterson,

Production Coordinator

Richard Felber,

Business Manager

Kathy Kotsivas, Office Manager

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A FIRST COMICS
PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

ALSO FIRST IN APRIL

WARP #5: "The Darkest Hour," adapted and pencilled by **Frank Brunner**, dialogued by **Peter Gillis**, inked by **Bruce Patterson**. Xander has defeated our heroes, but the incredible battle between Sargon and Valaria comes to a startling, and quite unexpected, conclusion. Also, "Brawl," the first part in a new Sargon solo story written by **John Ostrander**, pencilled by **Lenin Delsol**, and inked by **Rick Burchett**.

JON SABLE, FREELANCE #3: "A Storm Over Eden," written and drawn by **Mike Grell**. Now that you've got a hook on what Jon Sable does and how he does it, it's time to discover how he became who he is. The first of our four-part origin story starts off in the Olympic Village in Munich, takes you to the African wilds, and leaves you with your heart in your hands. Mike Grell's most powerful story ever!

STARSLAYER #7: "A Case of Do or Die!" written and broken down by **Mike Grell**, pencilled by **Lenin Delsol**, inked by **Mike Gustovich**. Where do you go after the Earth is blown up? More importantly, after you've blown up the planet, how do you dodge the former inhabitants who are likely to be more than just a little bit ticked off? This issue starts **Torin Mac Quillon** off on a whole new quest!



HALLO!

JA, IT'S ME AGAIN, YOUR SHPEKTRAL HOST UND NARRATOR, ALBERT EINSTEIN--EFF'RYBODY'S FAVORITE DEAD PHYZZICIST--VELCOMMINK YOU TO ANODDER LOONEY E-MAN STORY.



IN A WAY, OUR TALE DIZ MONTH REALLY BEGINS 30 YEARS AGO, WHEN DISS HERE BOOK VASS WRITTEN.

IT'S CALLED "FLOATING ETHICS, DER MODERN SCIENCE OF SELF-PRESERVATION," BY ELROD FLUMMOX...



...UND IT LATER FORMED DER BASIS OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED DER CHURCH OF TECHNOLOGY.

YOU SEE, DIS GUY FLUMMOX IS TO SCIENCE WHAT MARCEL MARCEAU IS TO FORENSICS, BUT NEVER MIND DOT NOW.



PERHAPPS YOU READ DER BOOK YOU BOUGHT IT... SOMEVUN GAFF YOU AZ A G

PERHAPPS YOU HAVE READ THE BOOK... PERHAPPS YOU BOUGHT IT... OR TO SOMEONE AS A GIFT * YOU

THIS SPACE FOR RENT -KEN

* TRANSLATED FROM THE HARD-TO-READ PHONETIC SPELLING OF HIS ACCENT--MIKE.



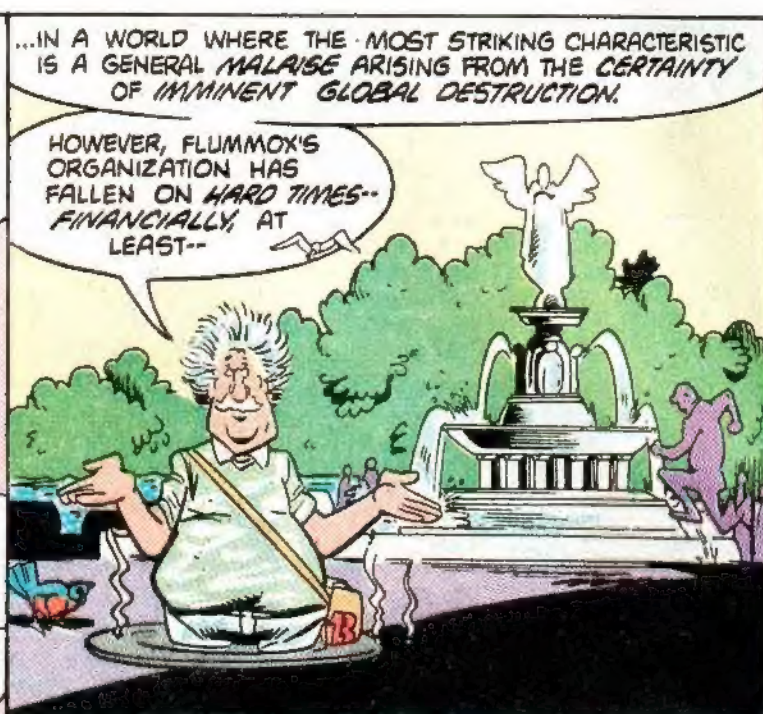
OR PERHAPS SOMEONE THRLIST IT ON YOU IN AN AIRPORT, SHORTLY BEFORE KIDNAPPING YOU AND KEEPING YOU HOOKED UP TO A MACHINE IN A SMALL, DARK ROOM FOR 48 HOURS UNTIL YOUR PARENTS HAD TO SEND DE-PROGRAMMERS AFTER YOU --THE LAWSUITS OVER WHICH MAY NOT BE SETTLED UNTIL 1992.

WHATEVER.



ANYWAY...EVER SINCE THE BOOK'S PUBLICATION, FLUMMOX'S CONTROVERSIAL "CHURCH" HAS BEEN MOST FAMOUS FOR THE UNUSUAL AMBITION AND ENTERPRISE OF ITS MEMBERS.

THAT'S EVEN TRUER TODAY...



...IN A WORLD WHERE THE MOST STRIKING CHARACTERISTIC IS A GENERAL MALAISE ARISING FROM THE CERTAINTY OF IMMINENT GLOBAL DESTRUCTION.

HOWEVER, FLUMMOX'S ORGANIZATION HAS FALLEN ON HARD TIMES-- FINANCIALLY, AT LEAST--



-AND SO HE WILL SOON TURN NEW YORK'S MALAISE AGAINST THE CITY ITSELF...

...USING IT AS A WEAPON IN A CRIME OF SUCH GRANDIOSE PROPORTIONS THAT--

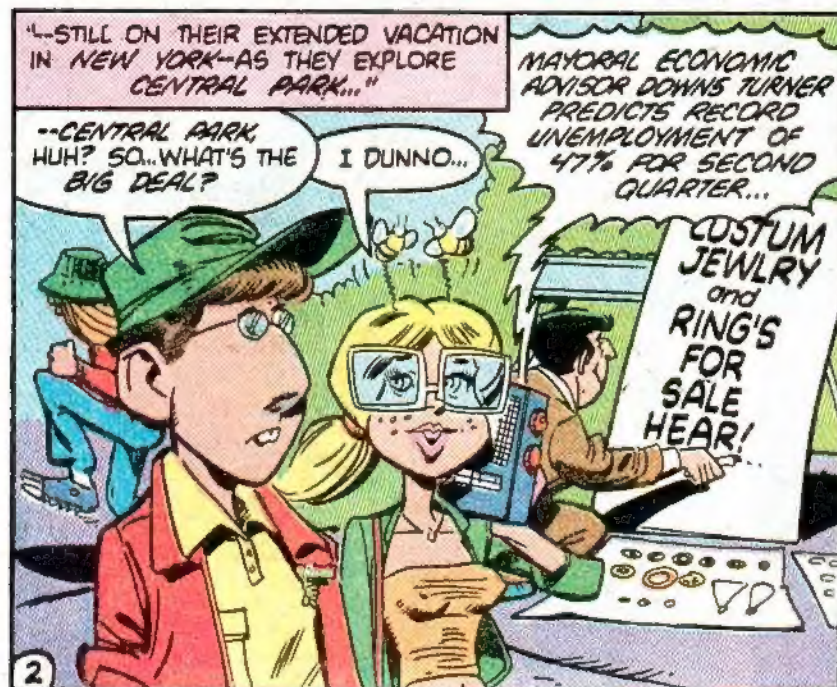
ACH! I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF AS USUAL...

BONK!



YOU'LL SEE WHAT ALL THAT MEANS SOON ENOUGH.

RIGHT NOW, LET'S JOIN MIKE MAUSER'S NEPHEW, DONALD DUKE, AND HIS GIRLFRIEND, DESBE WEBBE OF ENCINO, CALIFORNIA--



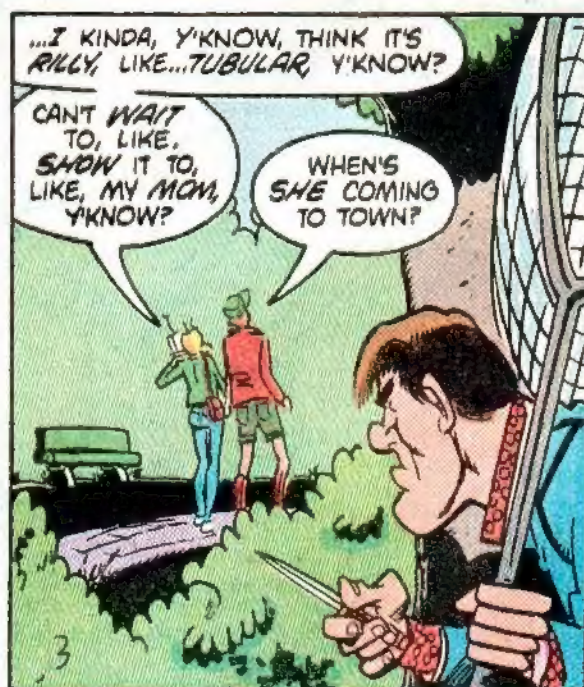
"--STILL ON THEIR EXTENDED VACATION IN NEW YORK--AS THEY EXPLORE CENTRAL PARK..."

--CENTRAL PARK. HUH? SO...WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

I DUNNO...

MAYORAL ECONOMIC ADVISOR DOWNS TURNER PREDICTS RECORD UNEMPLOYMENT OF 47% FOR SECOND QUARTER...

CUSTOM JEWELRY and RING'S FOR SALE HEAR!



...I KINDA, Y'KNOW, THINK IT'S RILLY, LIKE...TUBULAR, Y'KNOW?

CAN'T WAIT TO, LIKE, SHOW IT TO, LIKE, MY MOM, Y'KNOW?

WHEN'S SHE COMING TO TOWN?

"MEANWHILE--AS A CERTAIN ENERGY-MAN CONVERTED INTO MATTER SPEEDS OVER-HEAD IN THE SHAPE OF A ROCKET..."

CREATED BY
NICOLA CUTI and
JOE STATON

LET'S SEE...
SO FAR, I'VE TAKEN
A TRAFFIC COP WHO'D
BEEN RUN DOWN TO
AN EMERGENCY
ROOM...

...BROKE UP A
FISTFIGHT AMONG
STRIKING DOCTORS WHO
WERE PICKETING THAT
EMERGENCY ROOM...

...AND HELPED THE
PHONE COMPANY FIX
SOME CIRCUITS THAT
RE-ROUTED 2000 LOCAL
CALLS TO ZIMBABWE.

NOT BAD
FOR AN
AFTERNOON'S
WORK--

--EH? THAT'S
DEBBE WEBBE
DOWN THERE--
ABOUT TO GET
MUGGED!

GETTING VOID

MOM
WILL BE, LIKE,
CHECKED IN AT
THE PLAZA BY,
LIKE, SEVEN
TONIGHT.

WOTSNT
HOT DOGS!

PLOTTED & WRITTEN BY
MARTIN PASKO
DRAWN BY
JOE STATON
LETTERED BY
KEN BRUZENAK
COLORED BY
WENDY FIORE
EDITED BY
MIKE GOLD

SHE'S UP FOR THE PART OF THE MOTHER IN A TV MOVIE-- "ALLISON: DIARY OF A TEEN-AGE MUD-WRESTLER."

THE NETWORK WANTS TO AUDITION HER PERSONALLY--

DEBBE! LOOK OUT!

BANZAI!

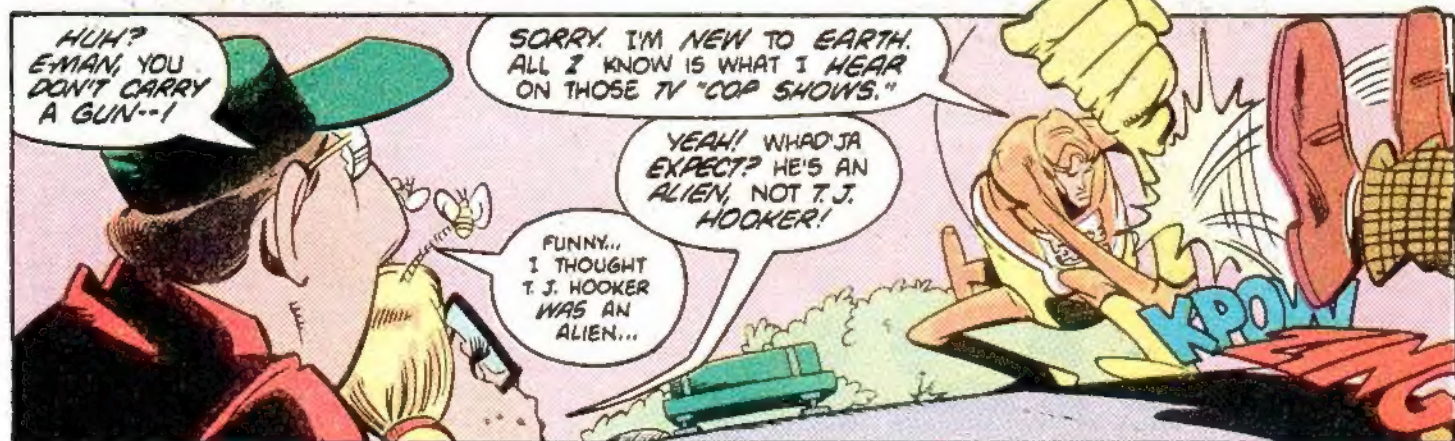


WHAT IS THAT--LIKE, A PURSE-SNATCHER OR SOME JUNK?

UH-HUH...

BUT, LIKE, MY NIGHT-RETAINER WAS IN THERE! LIKE, BARF-OUT TO THE MAX, I'M SHERA...

STOP-- OR I'LL SHOOT!



HUH? EYMAN, YOU DON'T CARRY A GUN--!

SORRY. I'M NEW TO EARTH. ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I HEAR ON THOSE TV "COP SHOWS."

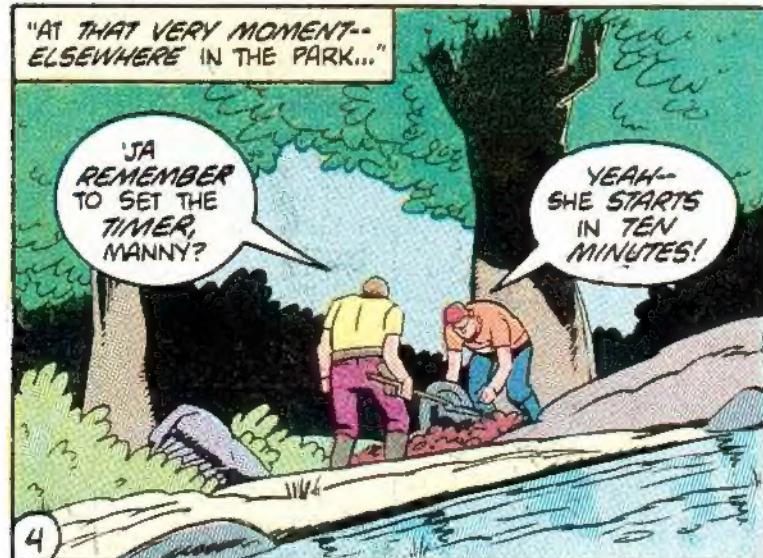
YEAH! WHO'D JA EXPECT? HE'S AN ALIEN, NOT T.J. HOOKER!

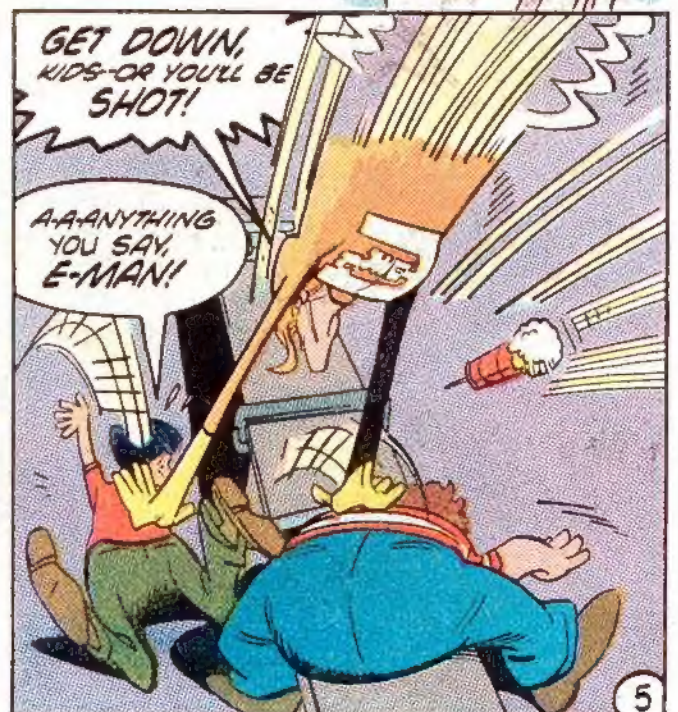
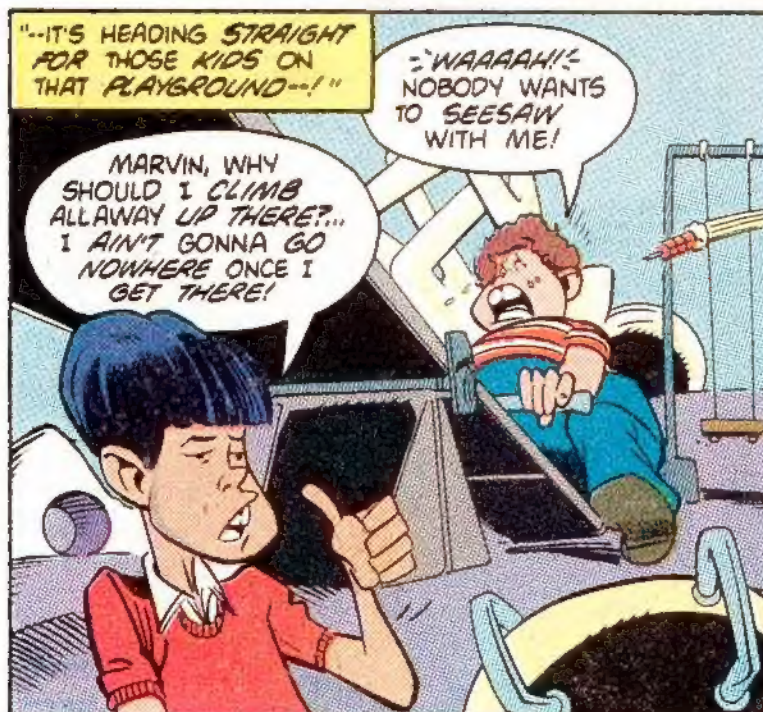
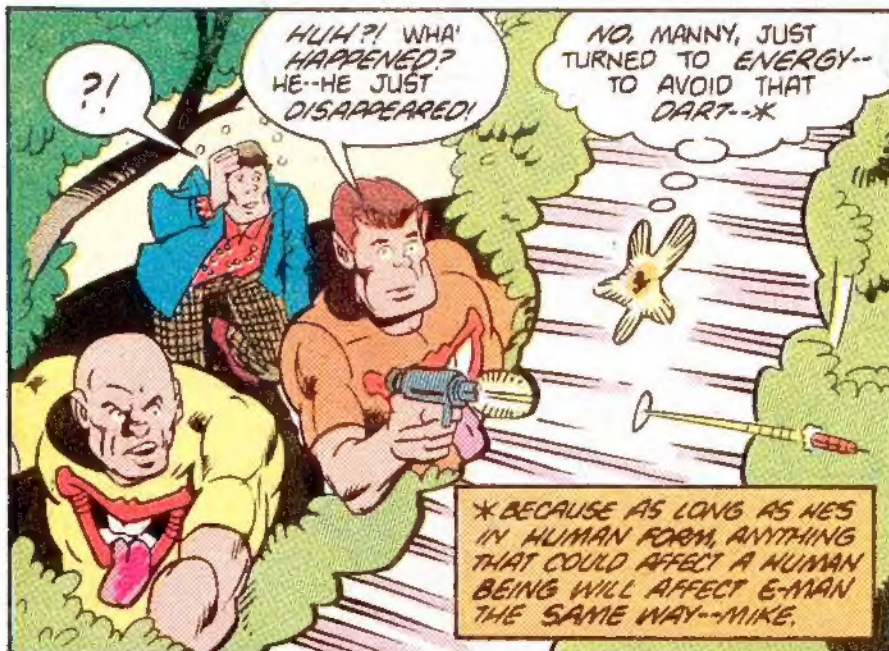
FUNNY... I THOUGHT T.J. HOOKER WAS AN ALIEN...

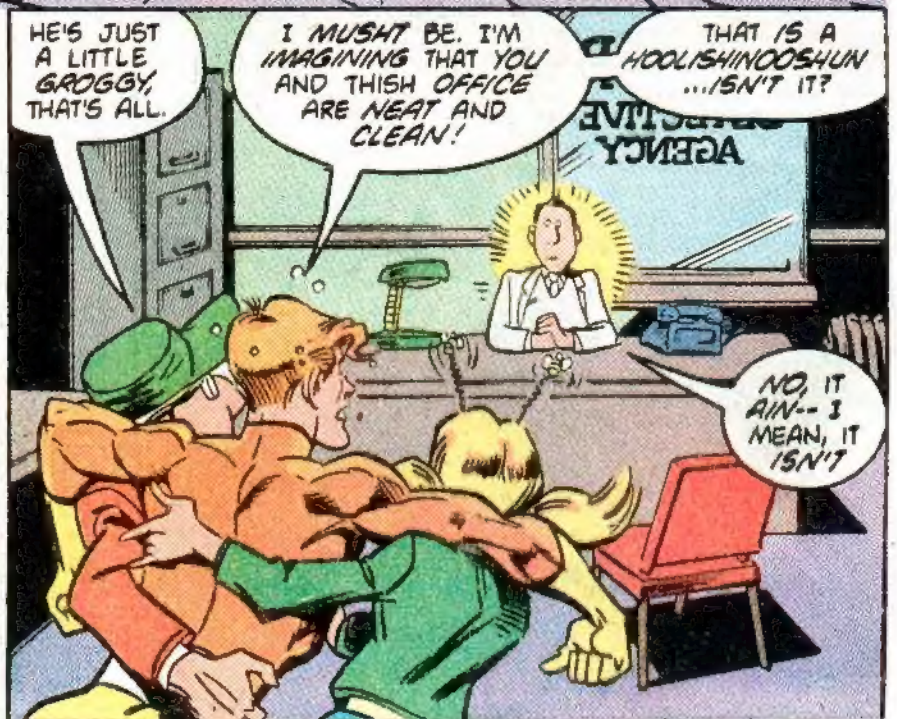
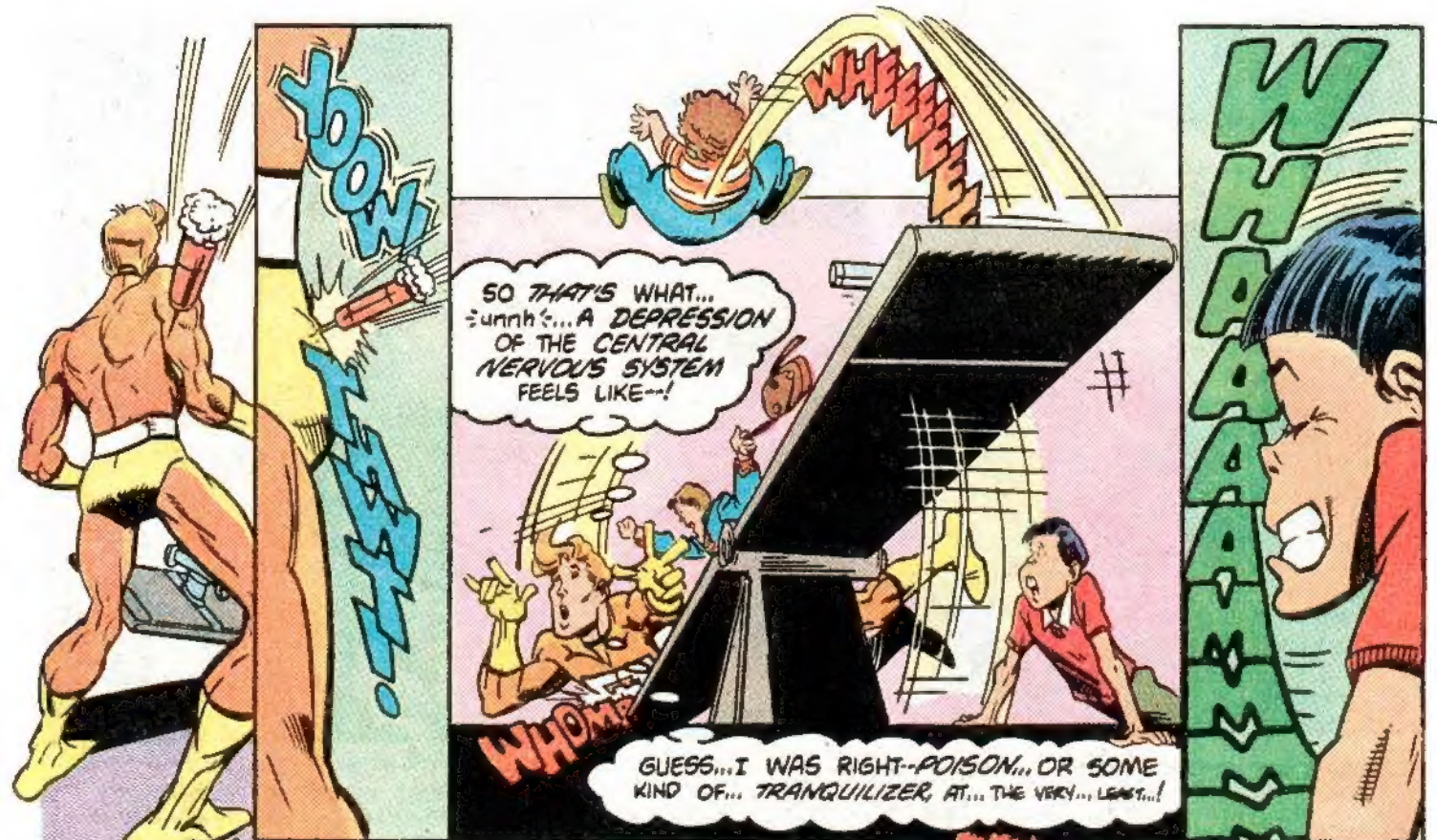
"AT THAT VERY MOMENT-- ELSEWHERE IN THE PARK..."

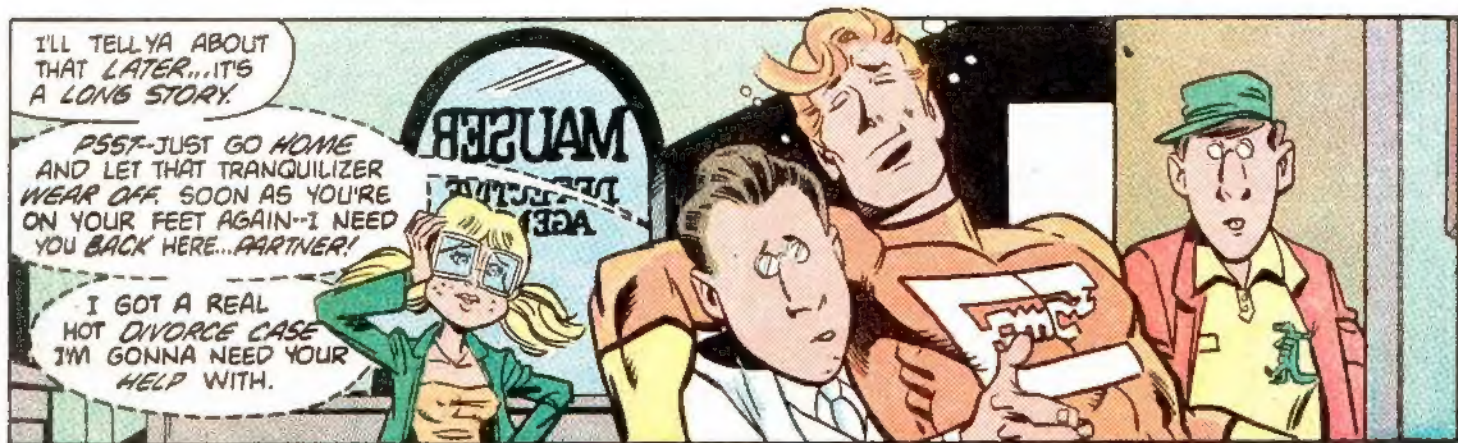
'JA REMEMBER TO SET THE TIMER, MANNY?

YEAH-- SHE STARTS IN TEN MINUTES!

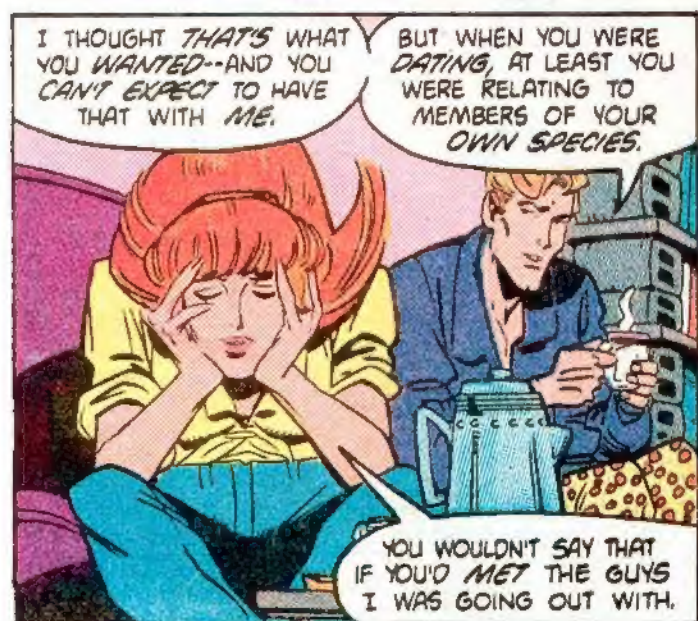
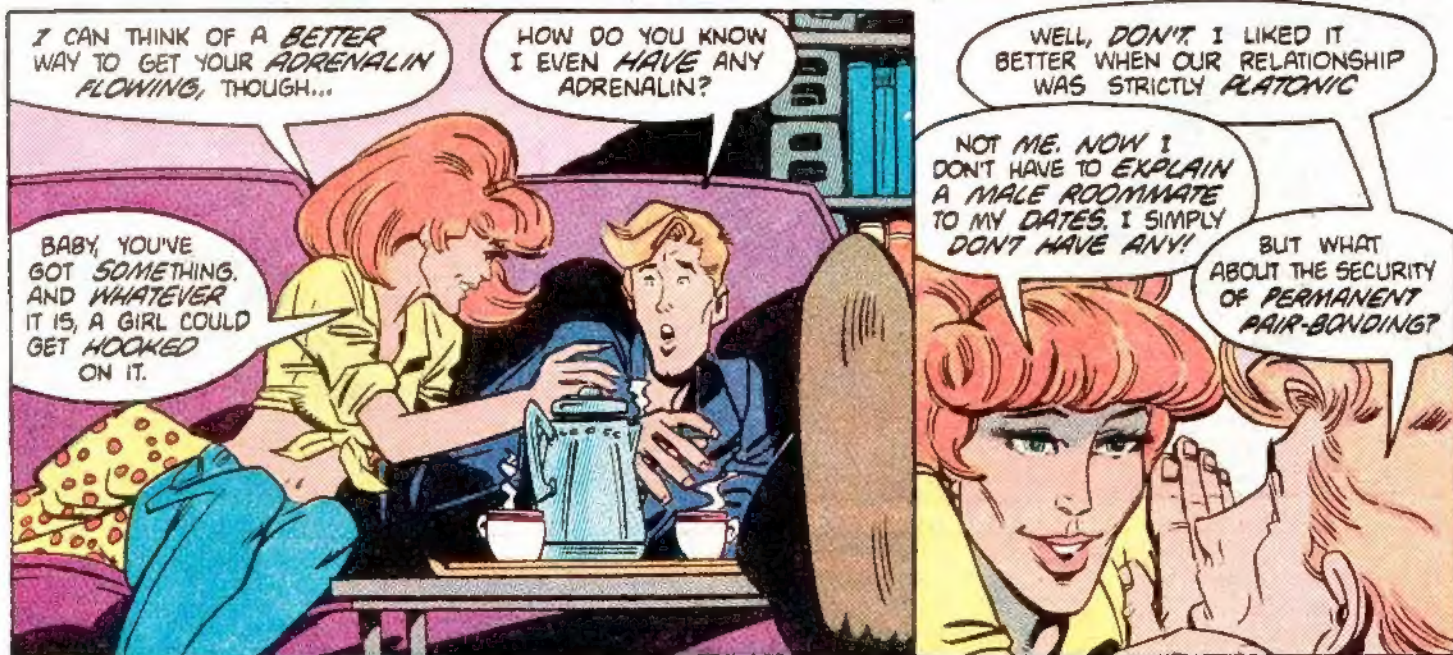


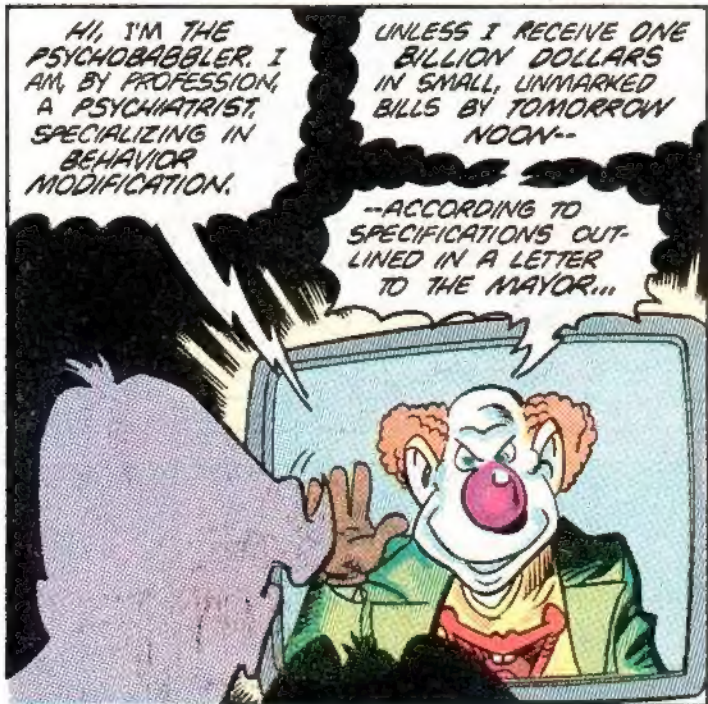






"PRESENTLY, IN THE APARTMENT E-MAN--IN HIS CIVILIAN IDENTITY OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR ALEC TRONV--SHARES WITH NOVA KANE, EXOTIC DANCER AND PART-TIME ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENT..."





HI, I'M THE PSYCHOBABBLER. I AM, BY PROFESSION, A PSYCHIATRIST, SPECIALIZING IN BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.

UNLESS I RECEIVE ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN SMALL, UNMARKED BILLS BY TOMORROW NOON--

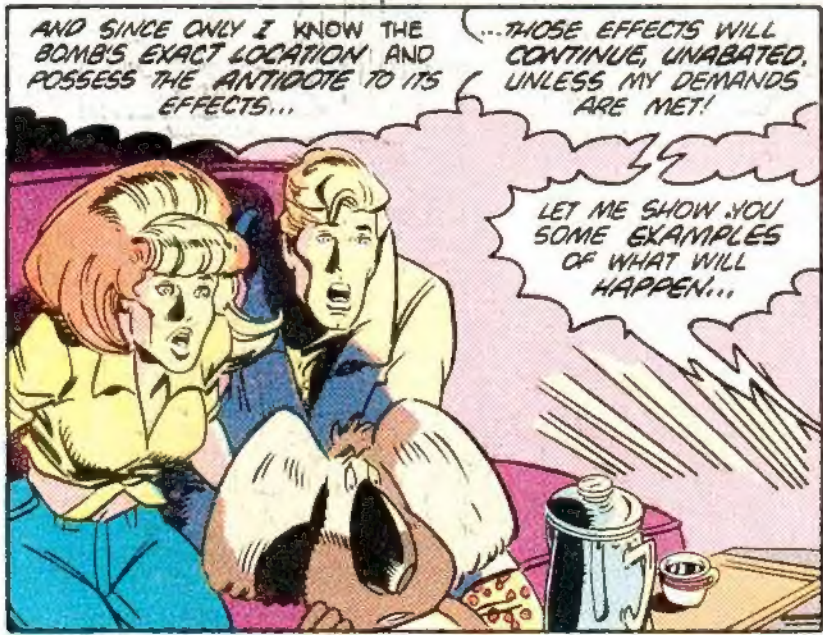
--ACCORDING TO SPECIFICATIONS OUTLINED IN A LETTER TO THE MAYOR...



...THE EFFECTS OF THE "SKINNER BOMB" I'VE INVENTED--NOW HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN MANHATTAN AND ALREADY DETONATED--

--WILL "MODIFY" THE "BEHAVIOR" OF THE ENTIRE CITY!

AN EPIDEMIC OF INCOMPETENCE AND APATHY WILL SWEEP OVER NEW YORK, BRINGING THE CITY TO A SCREECHING HALT!



AND SINCE ONLY I KNOW THE BOMB'S EXACT LOCATION AND POSSESS THE ANTIDOTE TO ITS EFFECTS...

...THOSE EFFECTS WILL CONTINUE, UNABATED, UNLESS MY DEMANDS ARE MET!

LET ME SHOW YOU SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN...



AS THIS SPECIAL FILM I'VE PREPARED DEMONSTRATES...

...THOUSANDS WILL DIE IN ACCIDENTS DUE TO DANGEROUSLY MISMANAGED PUBLIC TRANSIT...



...AND MILLIONS WILL DIE AS VIOLENT CRIME INCREASES, UNCHECKED...BECAUSE THE POLICE FORCE WILL HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO A SQUAD OF BUNGLERS.

A DRAMATIZATION

"BUT THEN, THE CRIMINALS THEMSELVES WILL BECOME INCOMPETENT, AND THE COPS WON'T MATTER ANYMORE."



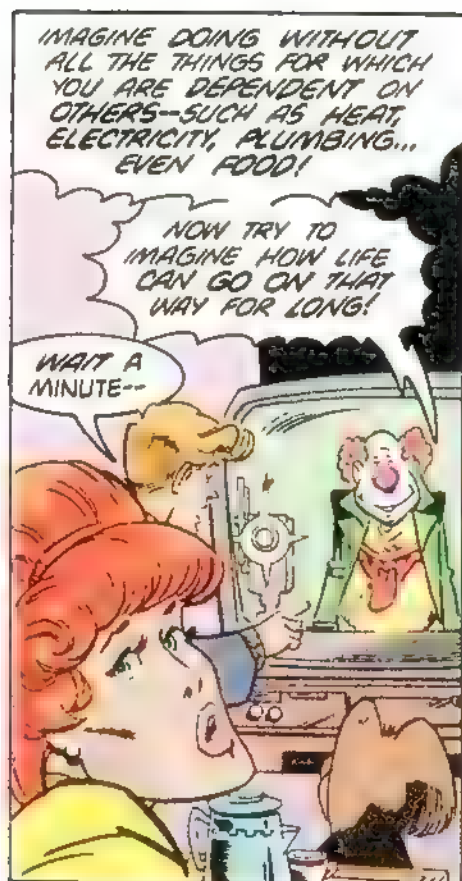
"EVENTUALLY, EVERYTHING WILL BREAK-AND NO ONE WILL REMEMBER HOW TO FIX IT...OR CARE!

"BUSINESSES WILL GO BANKRUPT...THE CITY'S ECONOMY WILL COLLAPSE.

CLOSED INDEFINITELY DUE TO DEPLETION OF STOCK

"ULTIMATELY, WE WILL SEE THE COMPLETE AND LUTTER BREAK-DOWN OF ORDER IN OUR SOCIETY!"

A DRAMATIZATION



IMAGINE DOING WITHOUT ALL THE THINGS FOR WHICH YOU ARE DEPENDENT ON OTHERS--SUCH AS HEAT, ELECTRICITY, PLUMBING... EVEN FOOD!

NOW TRY TO IMAGINE HOW LIFE CAN GO ON THAT WAY FOR LONG!

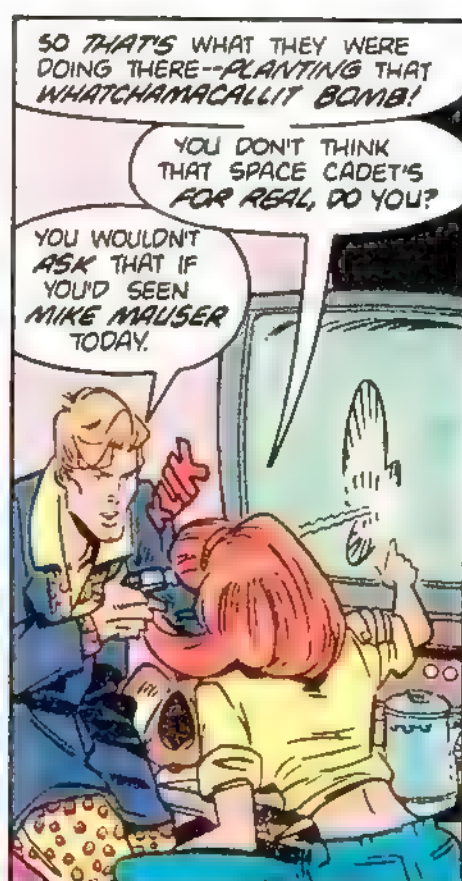
WAIT A MINUTE--



IT CAN'T, OF COURSE

WHICH IS WHY I'M CONFIDENT YOU'LL FIND IT IN YOUR HEARTS--NOT TO MENTION YOUR TREASURY--TO PAY UP! 'BYE!

THAT INSIGNIA ON HIS SHIRT! I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE--ON THOSE MEN IN THE PARK--!



SO THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE DOING THERE--PLANTING THAT WHATCHAMACALLIT BOMB!

YOU DON'T THINK THAT SPACE CADET'S FOR REAL, DO YOU?

YOU WOULDN'T ASK THAT IF YOU'D SEEN MIKE MAUSER TODAY.



HUH? YOU SAID HE'D CLEANED UP HIS ACT! SO WHAT?

DON'T YOU SEE? THE BOMB'S ALREADY AFFECTING HIM!

IF IT CAN MAKE PEOPLE INCOMPETENT AT WHAT THEY DO WELL, WHY NOT THE REVERSE--



--AND TURN SOMEONE WHO'S LOUSY AT CLEANLINESS INTO A FELIX UNGER?

EXACTLY--WHICH WOULD MEAN HE'S PROBABLY ALSO LOST HIS DETECTIVE KNOW-HOW!

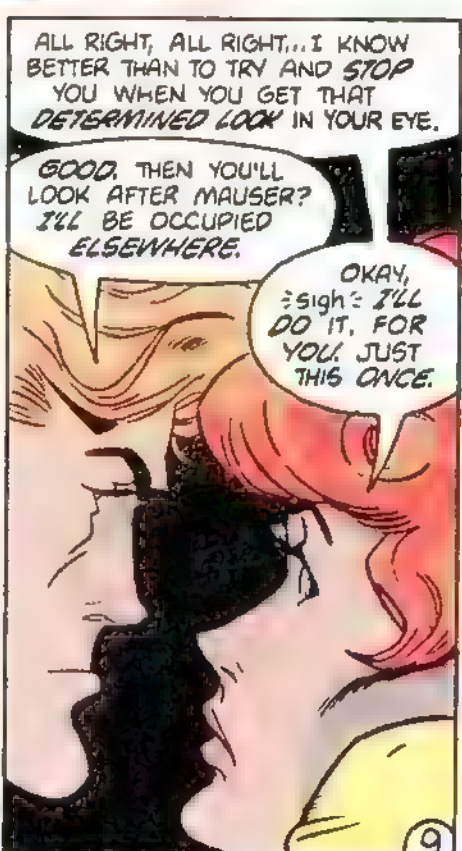
AND IF HE TRIES TO TACKLE A CASE IN THAT CONDITION...



HE COULD GET HIMSELF KILLED! WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

WHADDYA MEAN "WE," KEMO SABE? I'M NO SUPER-PERSON ANYMORE! BESIDES, HE'S YOUR FRIEND!

AND UNTIL YOU'RE COMPLETELY ALERT, YOU AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE EITHER!

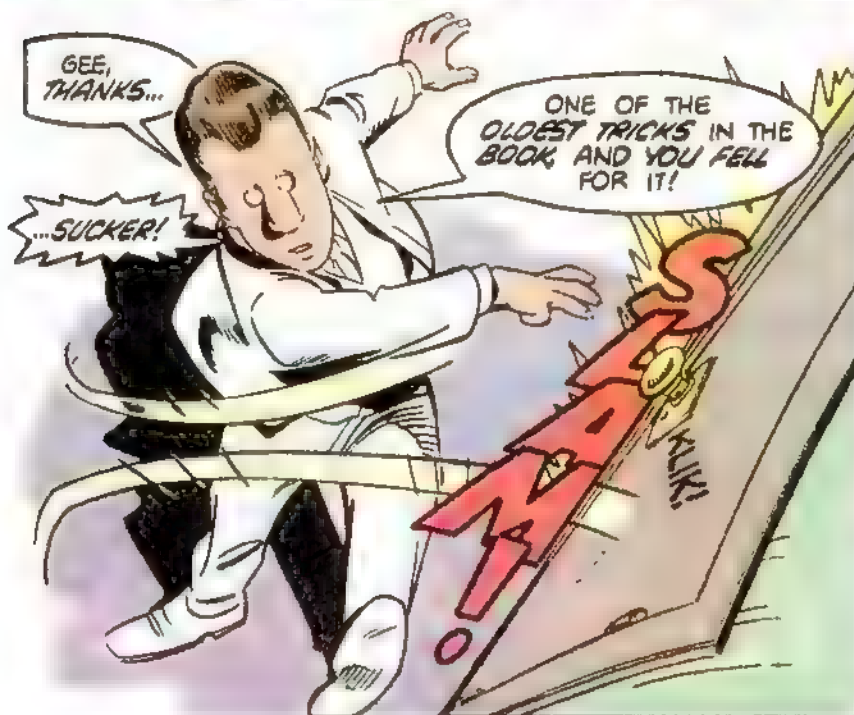
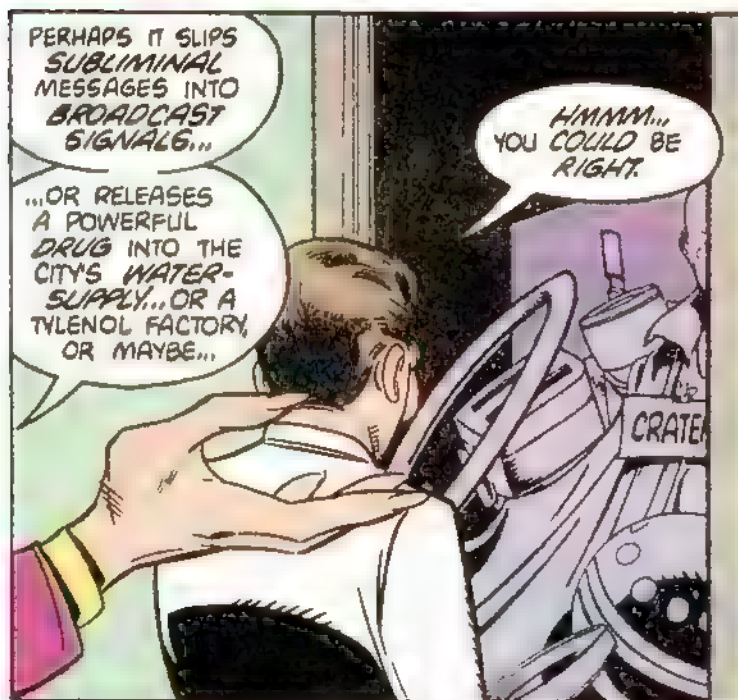
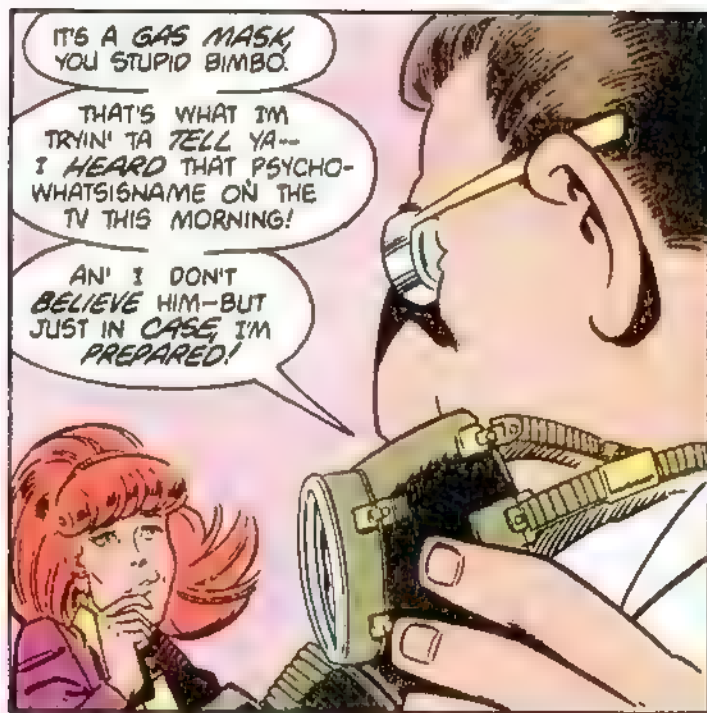


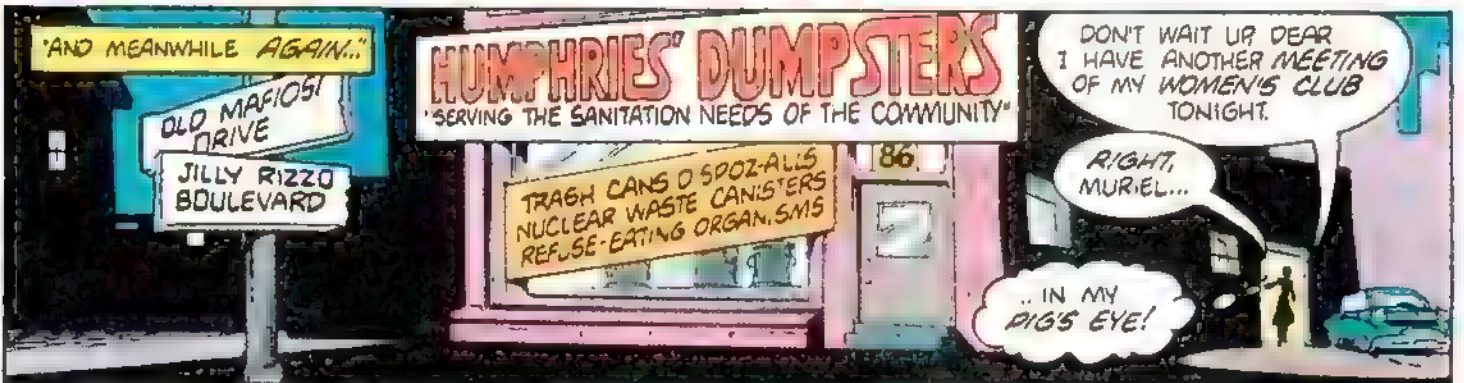
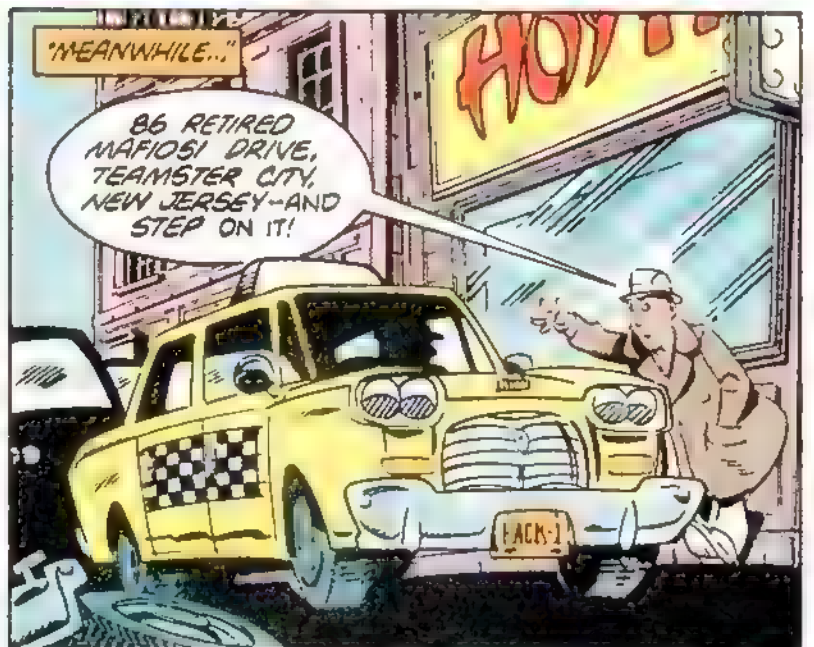
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...I KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY AND STOP YOU WHEN YOU GET THAT DETERMINED LOOK IN YOUR EYE.

GOOD. THEN YOU'LL LOOK AFTER MAUSER? I'LL BE OCCUPIED ELSEWHERE.

OKAY, ^{~sigh~} I'LL DO IT, FOR YOU. JUST THIS ONCE.

*NOVA LOST HER ENERGY POWERS--FOR GOOD--IN ISSUE #3--MIKE.





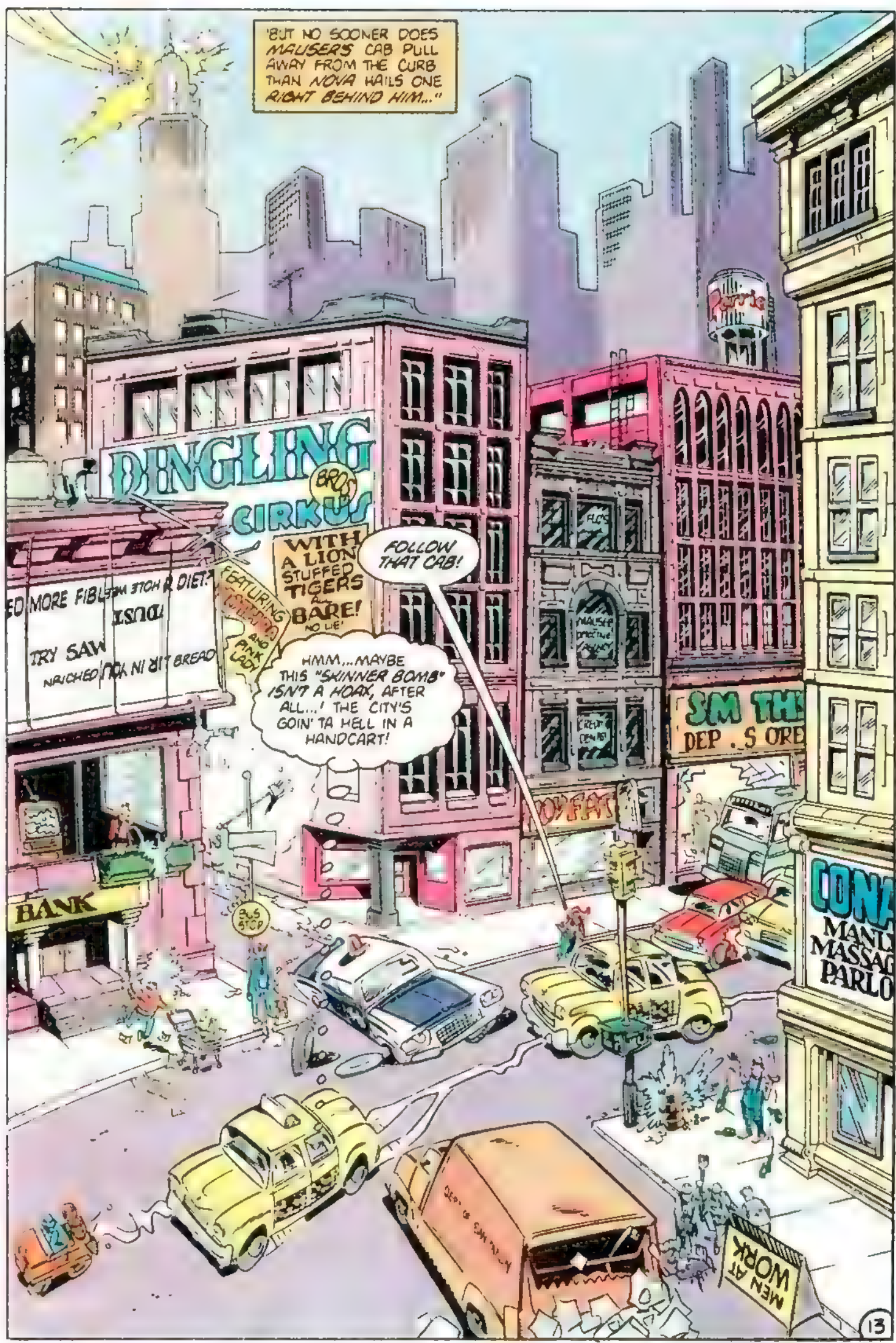
'BUT NO SOONER DOES MAUSER'S CAB PULL AWAY FROM THE CURB THAN NOVA HAILS ONE RIGHT BEHIND HIM...'

DINGLING CIRCUS

WITH A LION STUFFED TIGERS BARE! NO LIE!

FOLLOW THAT CAB!

HMM...MAYBE THIS "SKINNER BOMB" ISN'T A HOAX, AFTER ALL...! THE CITY'S GOIN' TA HELL IN A HANDCART!



"AND MEANWHILER STILL..."

I KNOW YOU'D LIKETA, LIKE,
GO OUT AN', LIKE, SEE THE
CITY AN' JUNK, MOM...

...BUT I DON'T THINK
YA BETTER, Y'KNOW?

IN FACT, MRS. WEBBE,
I THINK YOU'D BETTER
STAY RIGHT HERE UNTIL
THE CRISIS IS OVER.

BUT DON'T WORRY--
WE'LL KEEP YOU
COMPANY.

WHAT
CRISIS?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

WELL, IT'S KIND
OF A LONG
STORY, BUT--

CRASH

THIS IS AN
EXAMPLE OF WHAT
I WAS STARTING
TO TELL YOU.

IT ALL BEGAN
WITH THIS WEIRD
TV BROADCAST...

"BUT WE KNOW ALL THAT, SO
LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION TO..."

"...A SECLUDED
AREA OF
TEAMSTER
CITY, N.J. ..."

5050
INTERPERSONAL
TRANSACTION
LANE

I'LL GET
OUT HERE.

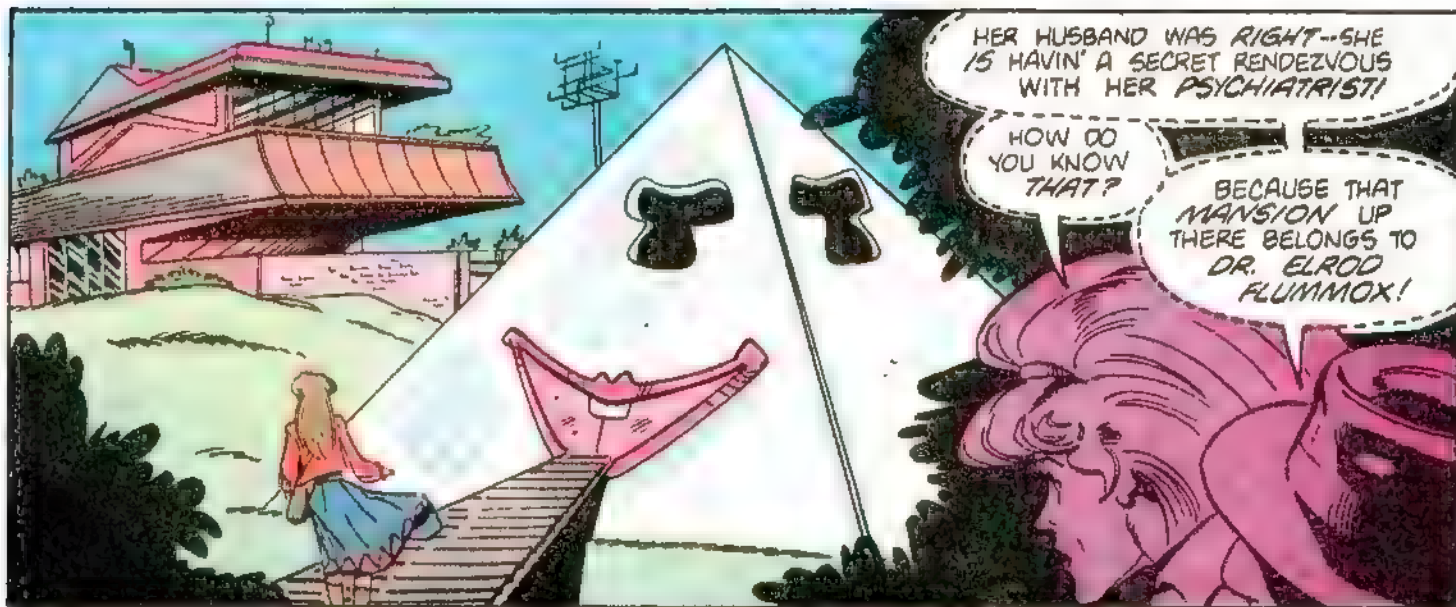
KANE? YOU'RE
SPOSTA BE IN THE
CLOSET--!

I DON'T WANNA HEAR
'BOUT YER FRIEND'S
PERSONAL LIFE, BLUSTER.
JUS' GIMME THE \$37.50
FOR THE FARE AN' LEMME
CUTTA HERE.

MAYBE I
COULDN'T
KEEP YOU
FROM
LEAVING,
MAUSER...

...BUT I PROMISED
ALEC TO KEEP
AN EYE ON YOU,
AND THAT'S A
PROMISE I'M
GOING TO KEEP.
FACE IT--YOU'RE
STUCK WITH ME.

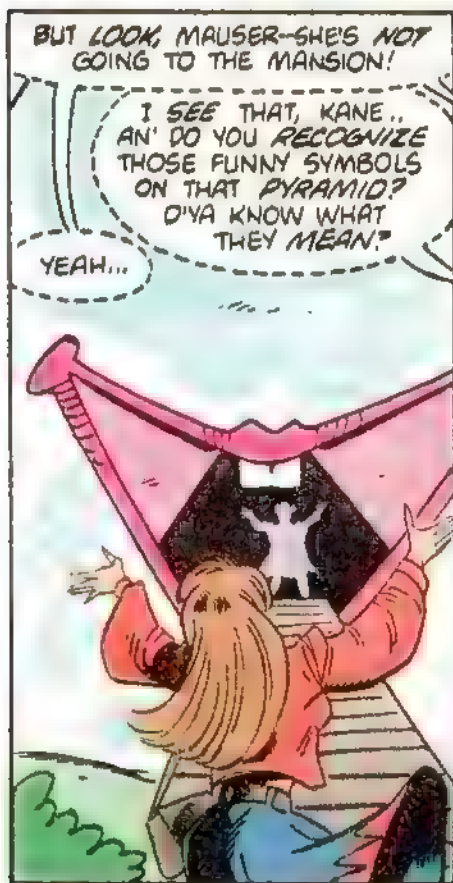
THEN MAKE
YOURSELF USEFUL
AND HELP ME TAIL
MRS. HUMPHRIES
THERE.



HER HUSBAND WAS RIGHT--SHE IS HAVIN' A SECRET RENDEZVOUS WITH HER PSYCHIATRIST!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

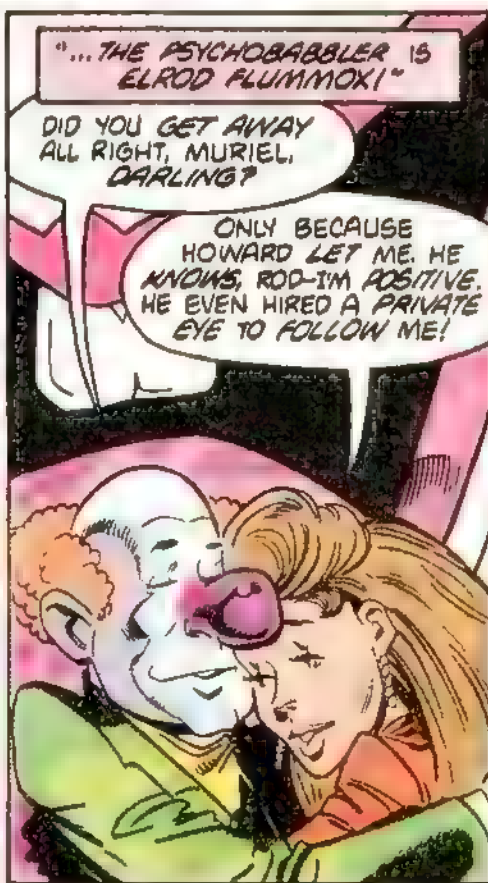
BECAUSE THAT MANSION UP THERE BELONGS TO DR. ELROD FLUMMOX!



BUT LOOK, MAUSER--SHE'S NOT GOING TO THE MANSION!

I SEE THAT, KANE.. AN' DO YOU RECOGNIZE THOSE FUNNY SYMBOLS ON THAT PYRAMID? O'YA KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN?

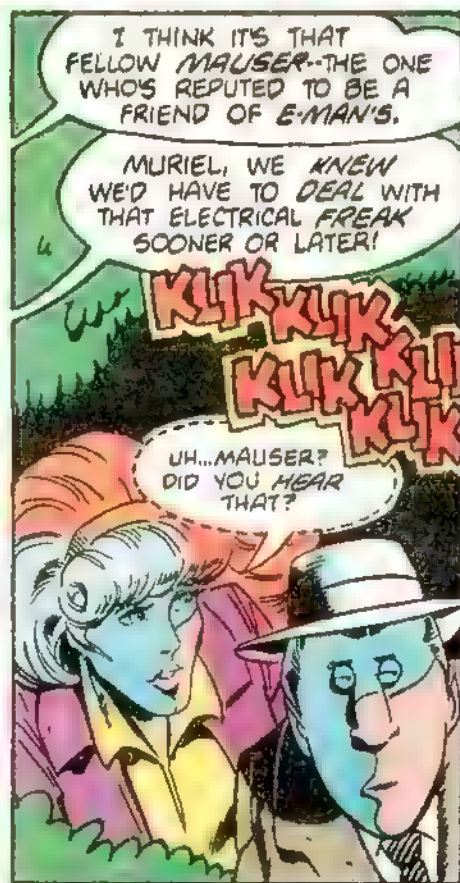
YEAH...



"...THE PSYCHOBABBLER IS ELROD FLUMMOX!"

DID YOU GET AWAY ALL RIGHT, MURIEL, DARLING?

ONLY BECAUSE HOWARD LET ME. HE KNOWS, ROD--I'M POSITIVE. HE EVEN HIRED A PRIVATE EYE TO FOLLOW ME!



I THINK IT'S THAT FELLOW MAUSER--THE ONE WHO'S REPUTED TO BE A FRIEND OF E-MAN'S.

MURIEL, WE KNEW WE'D HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT ELECTRICAL FREAK SOONER OR LATER!

UH...MAUSER? DID YOU HEAR THAT?

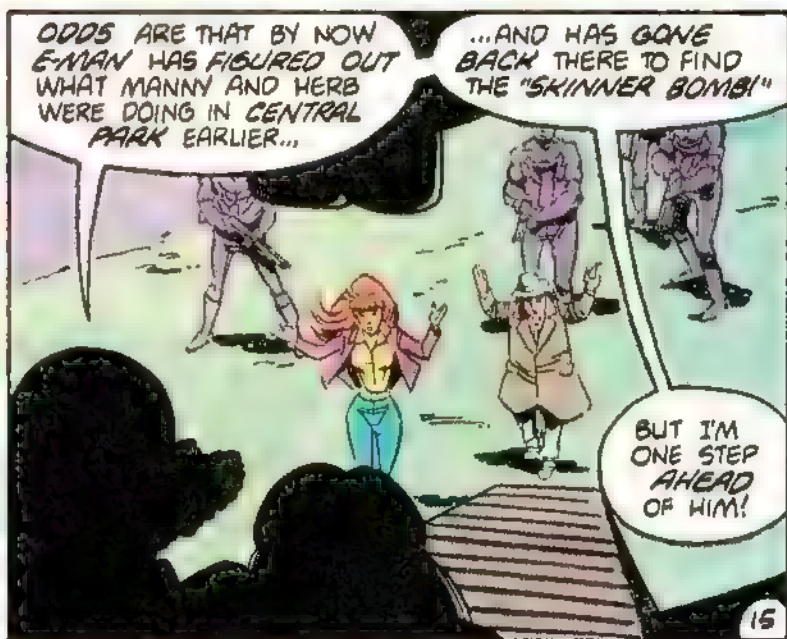


YEAH. SOUNDS LIKE A BUNCH O' SHOTGUNS BEIN' COCKED.

RIIIIGHT.

BUT I'M PREPARED FOR HIM.

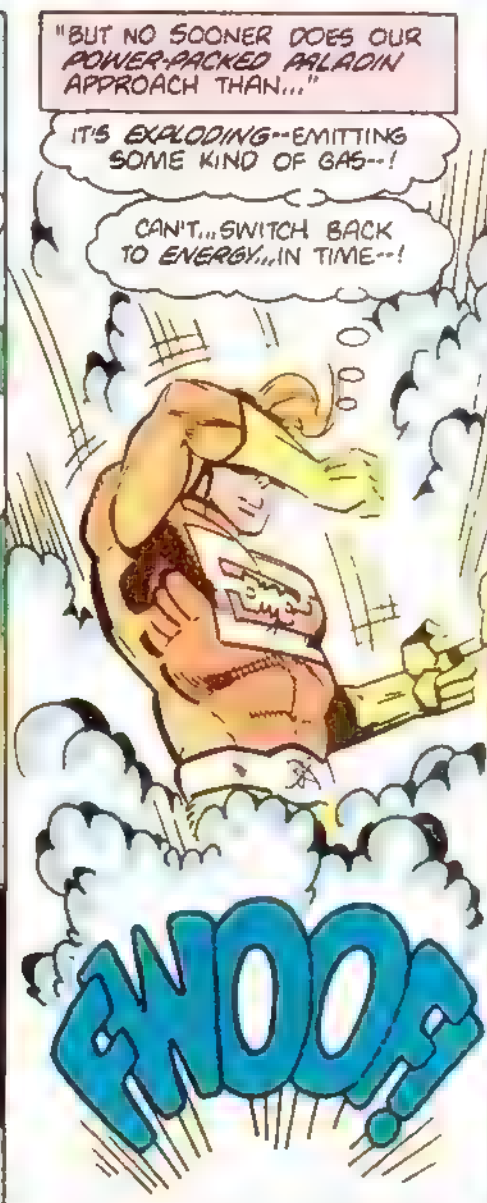
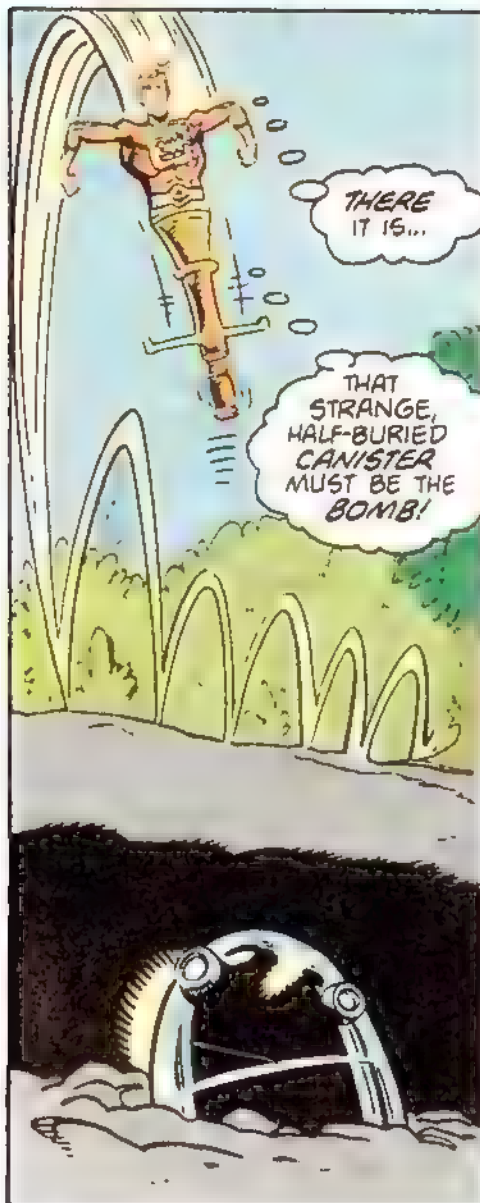
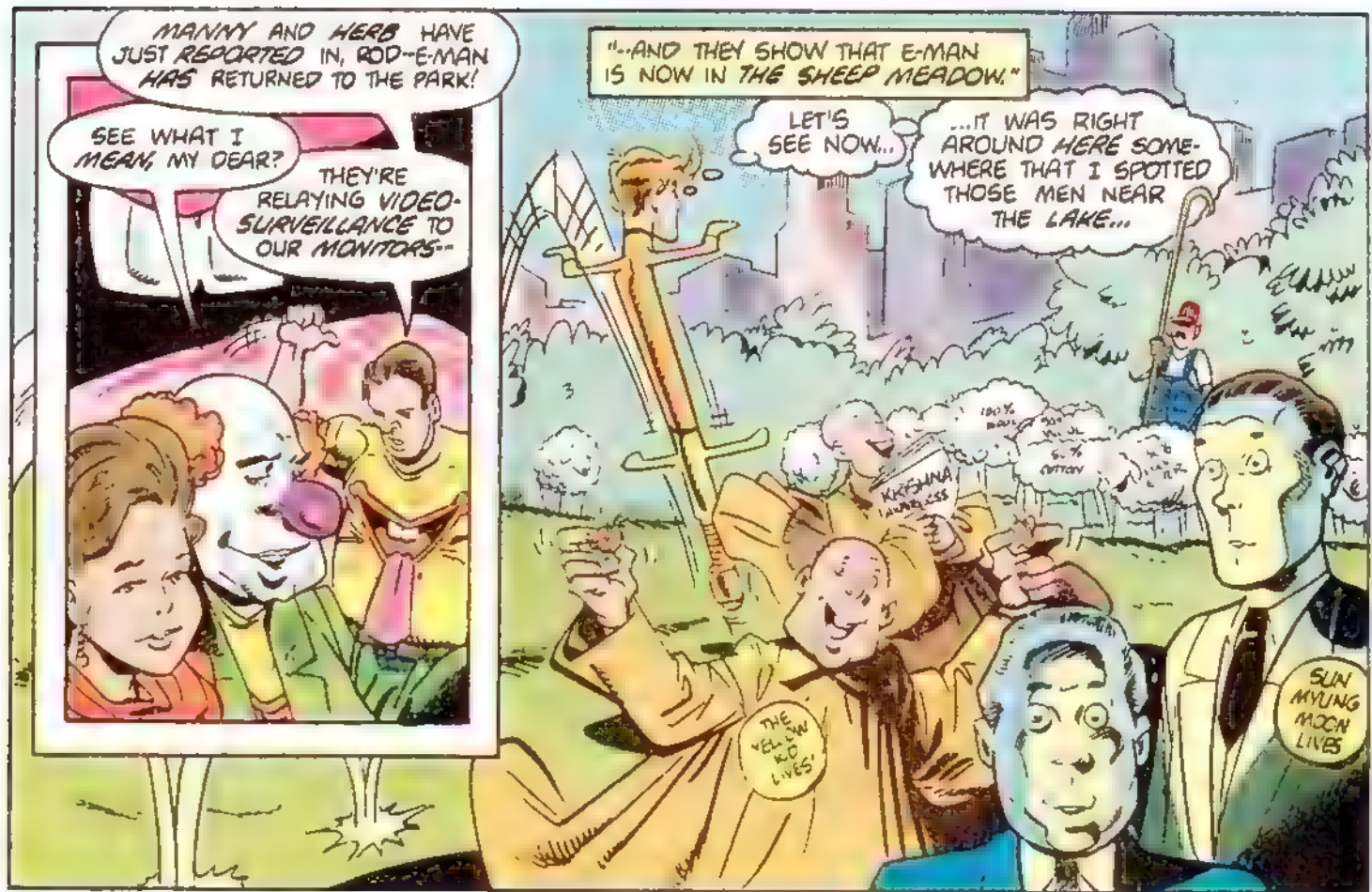
NO ONE COULD FOLLOW YOU INTO THE "COMPOUND" WITHOUT BEING DETECTED!

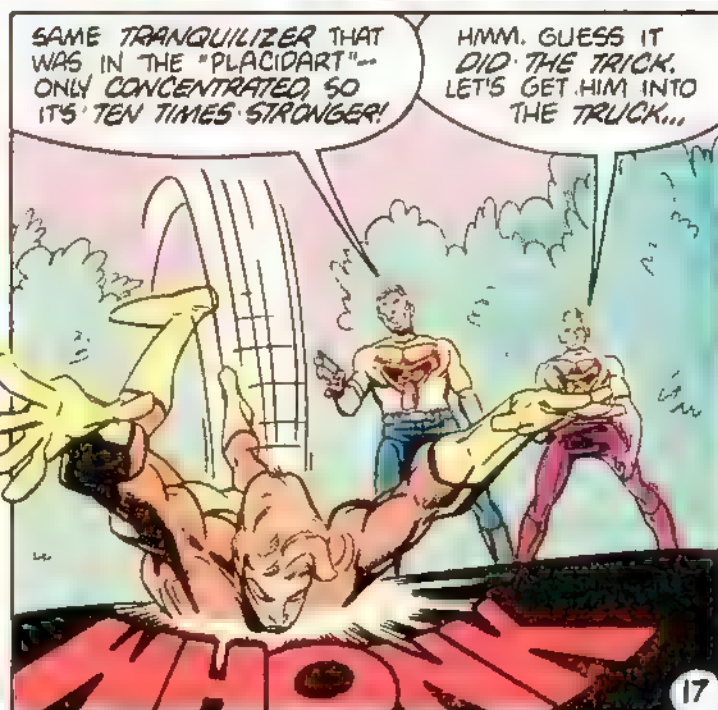
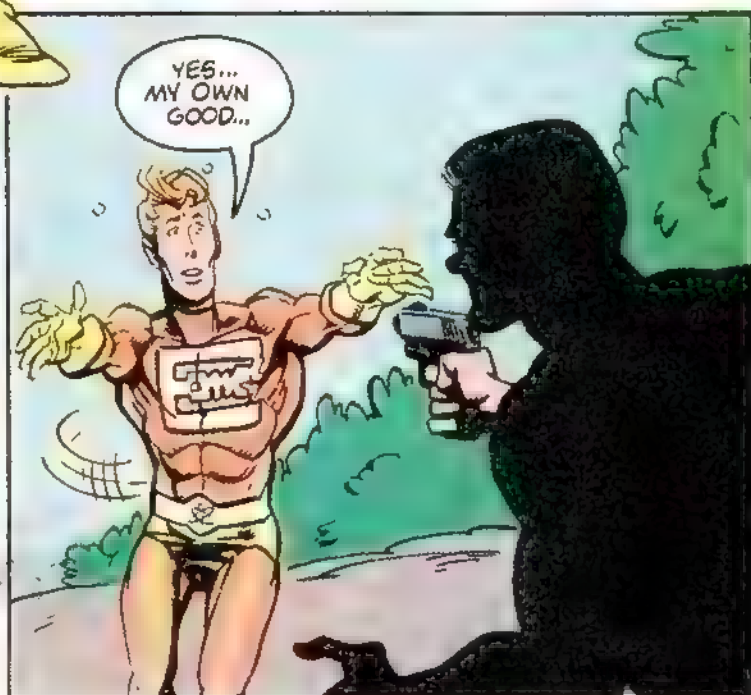
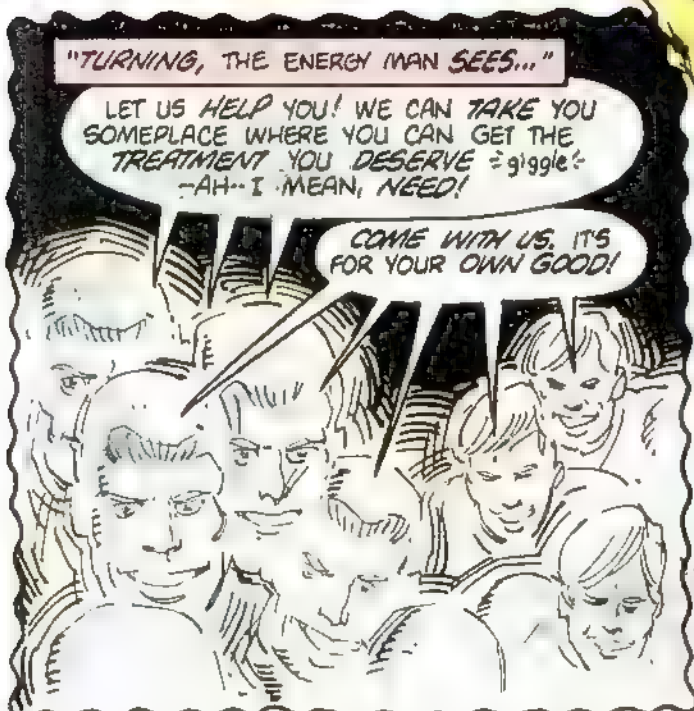
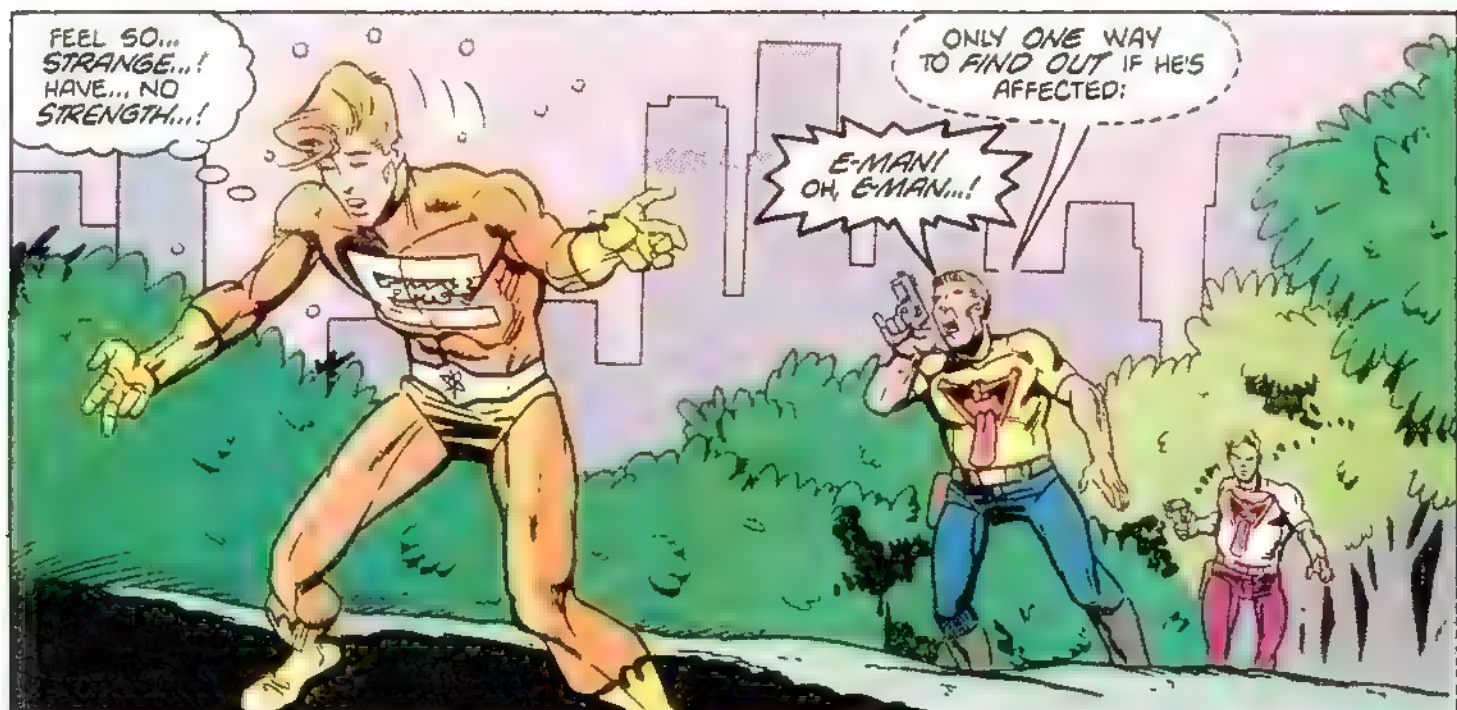


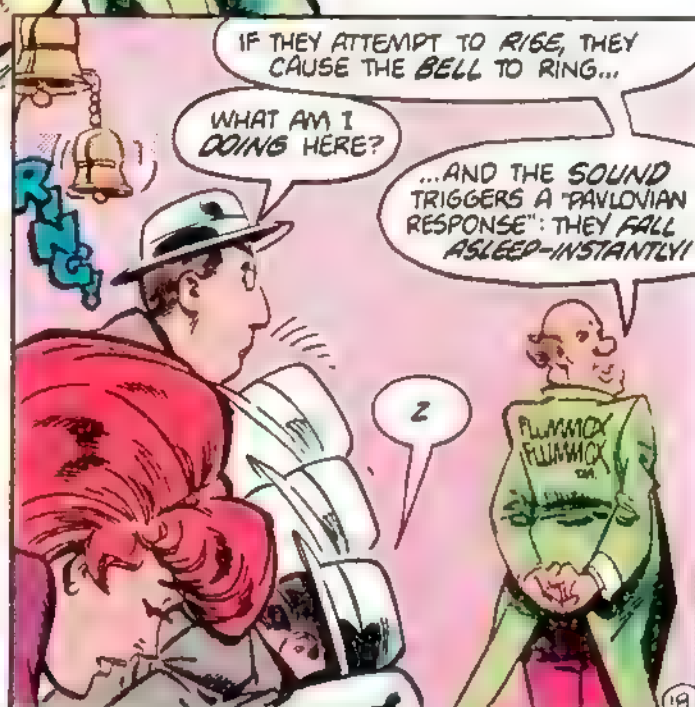
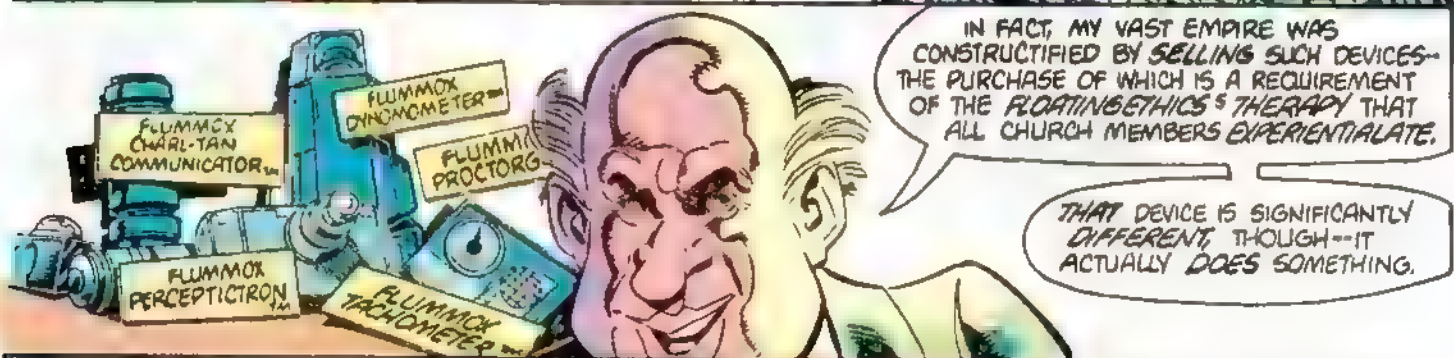
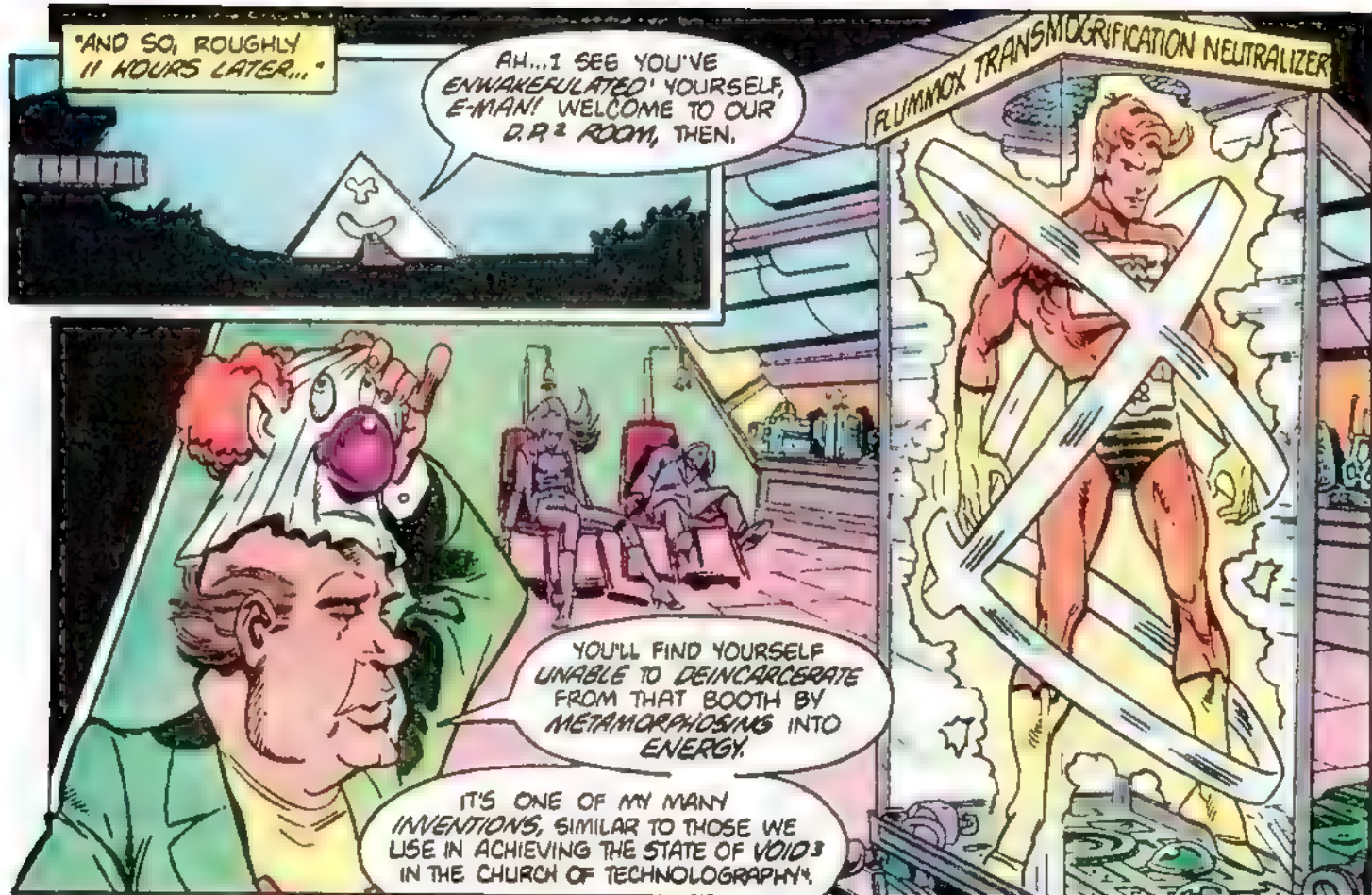
ODDS ARE THAT BY NOW E-MAN HAS FIGURED OUT WHAT MANNY AND HERB WERE DOING IN CENTRAL PARK EARLIER...

...AND HAS GONE BACK THERE TO FIND THE "SKINNER BOMBS!"

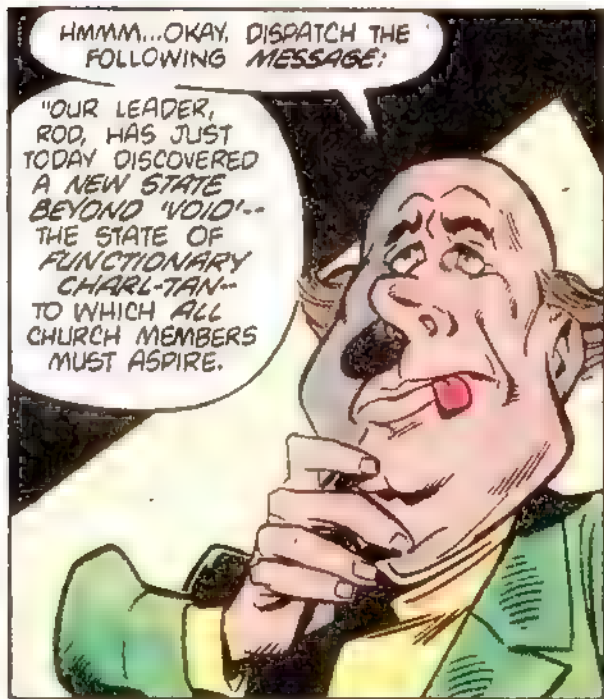
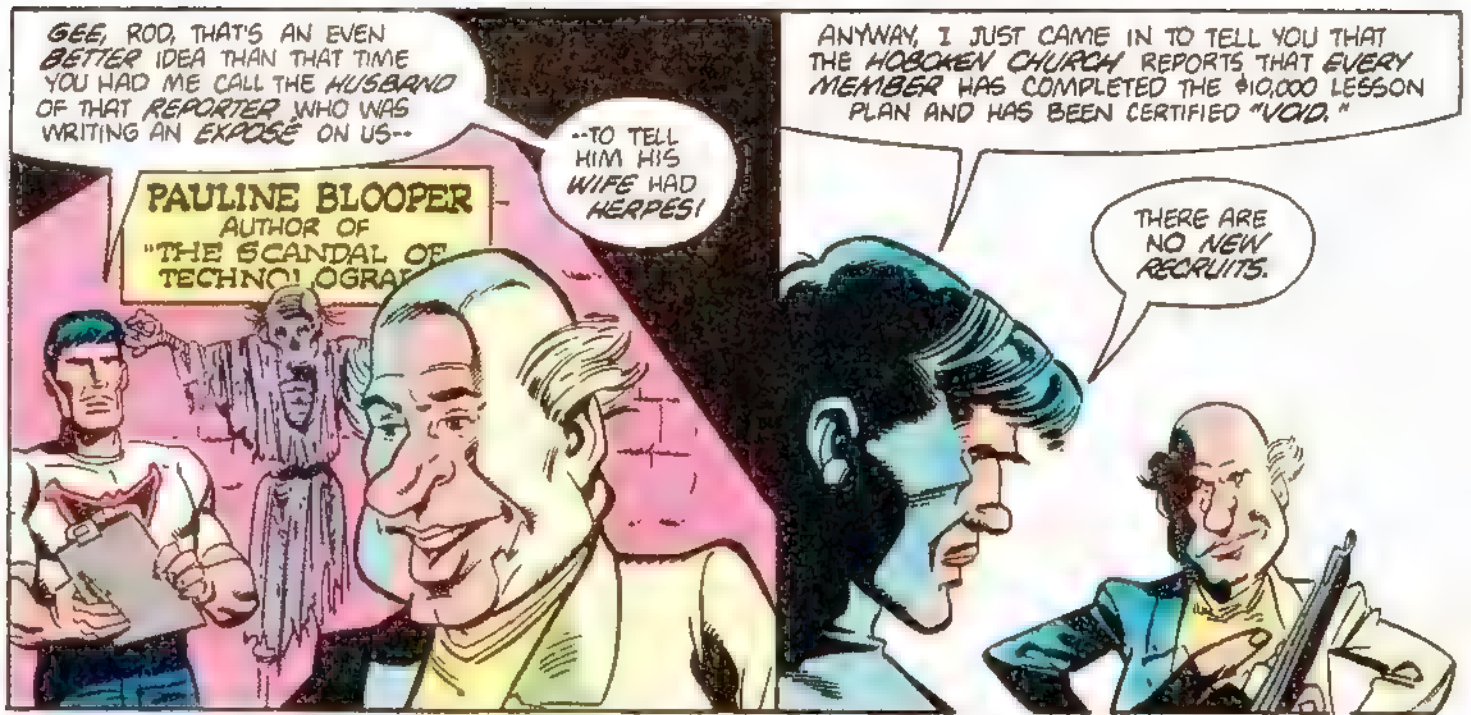
BUT I'M ONE STEP AHEAD OF HIM!

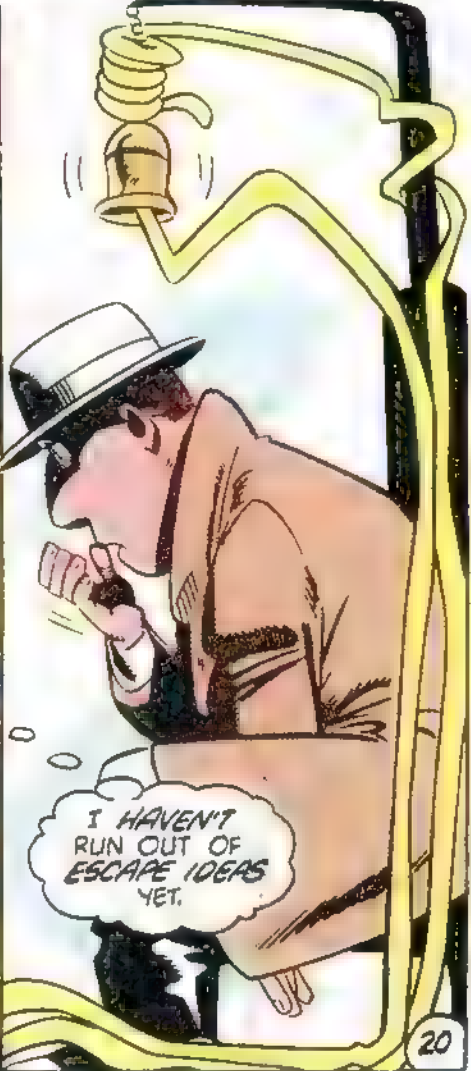
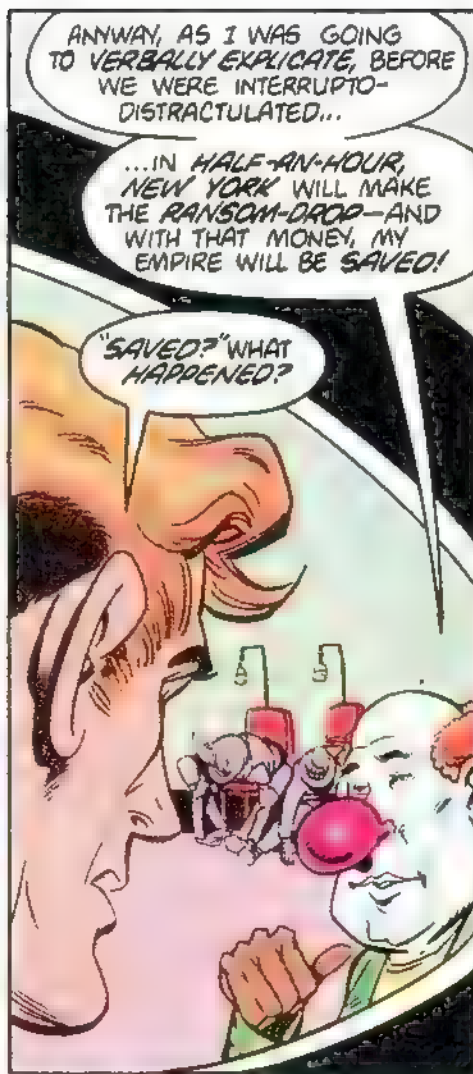


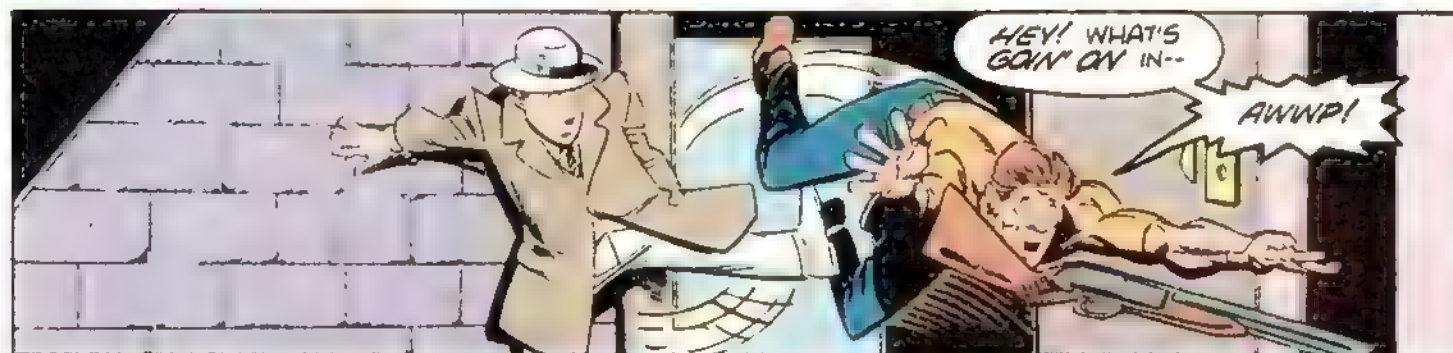
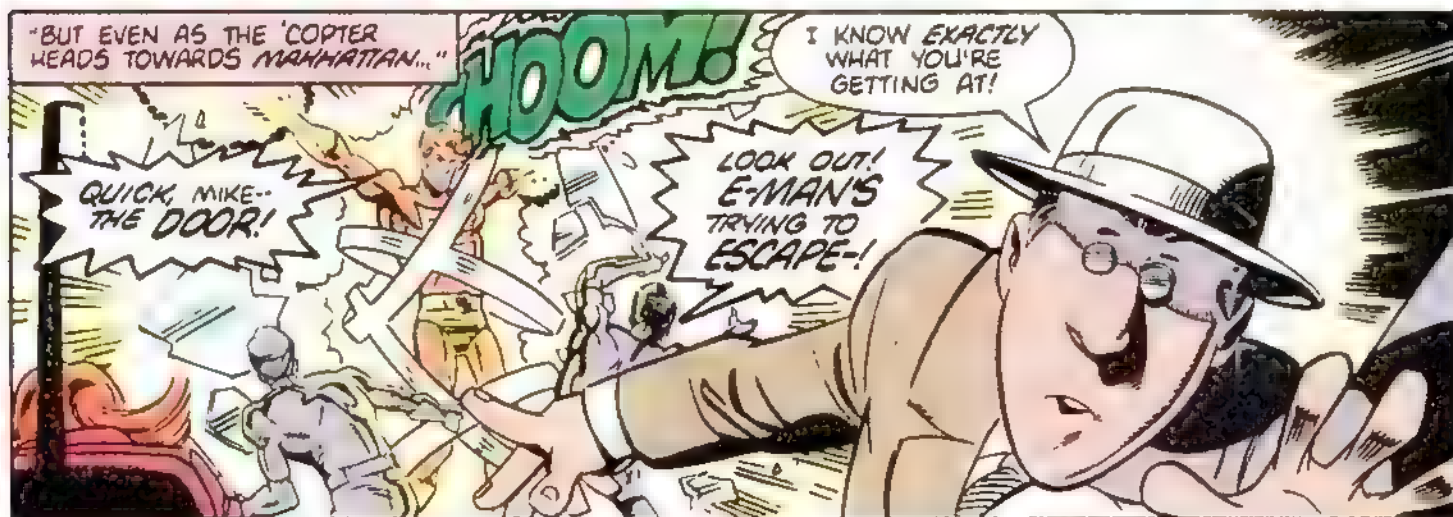
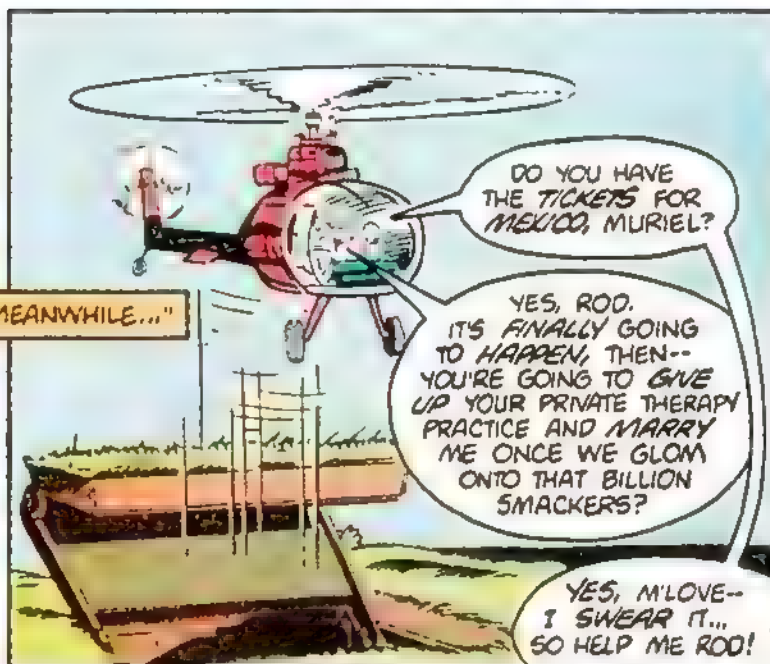
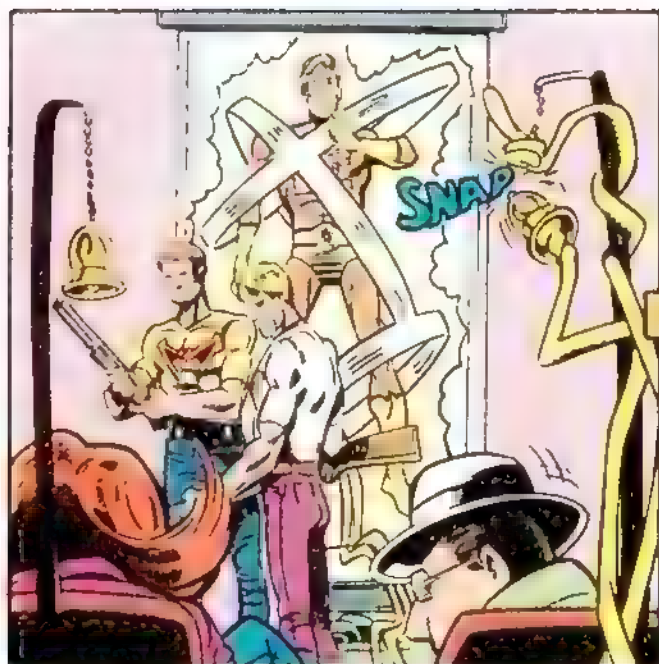


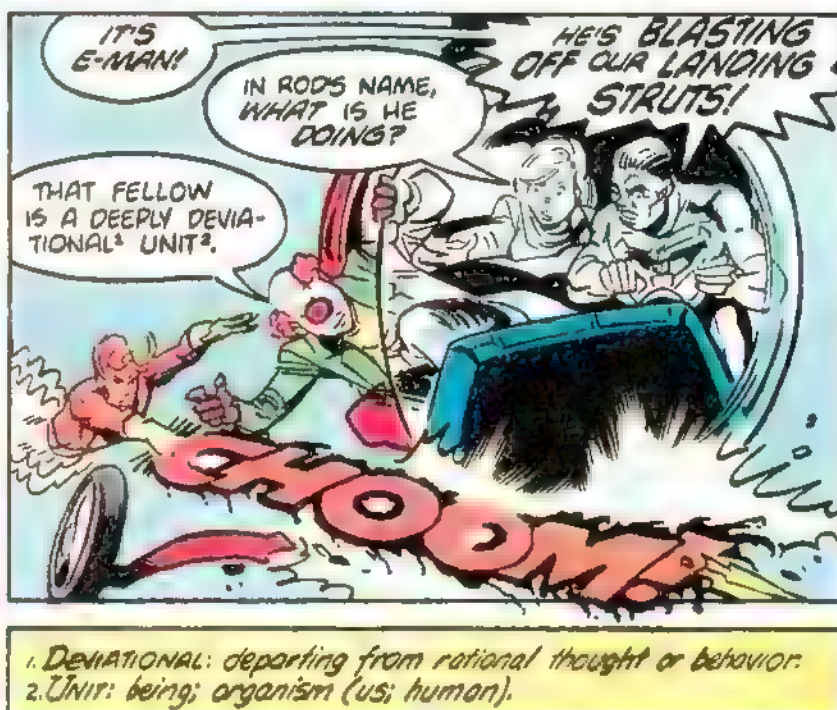
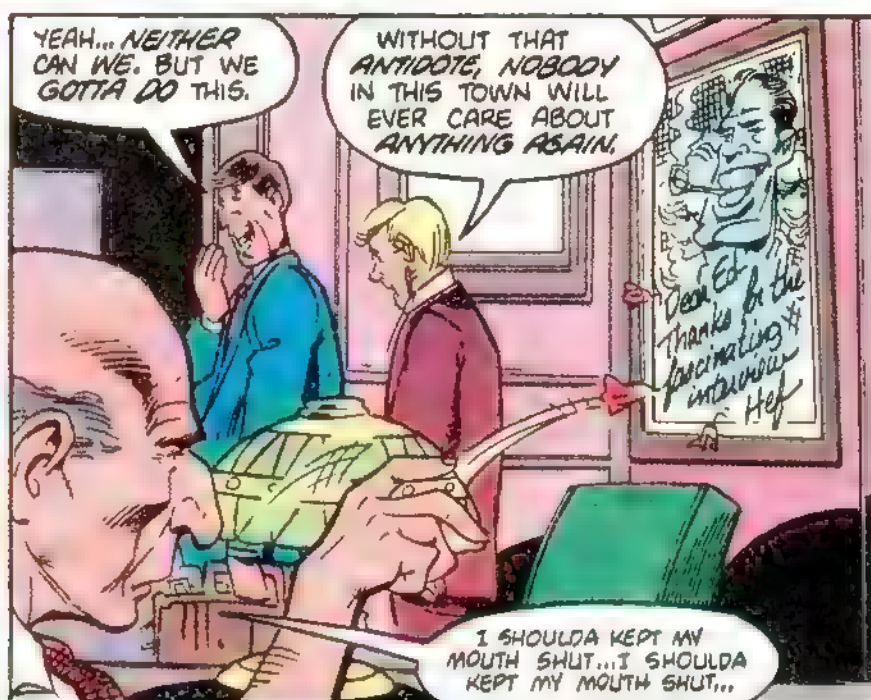
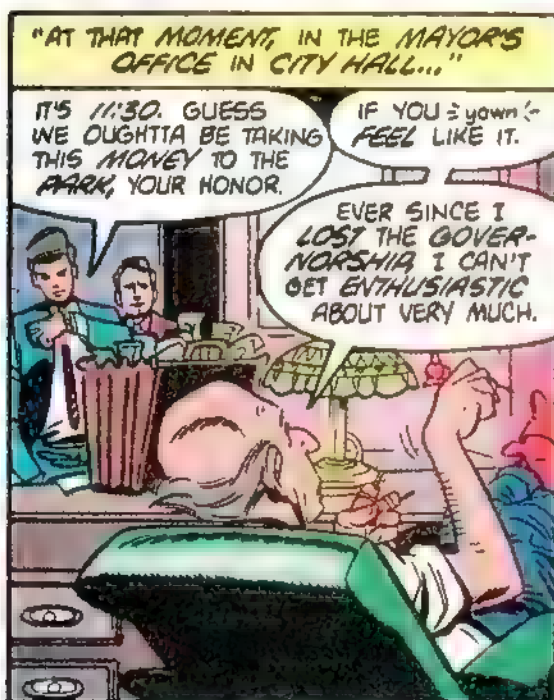
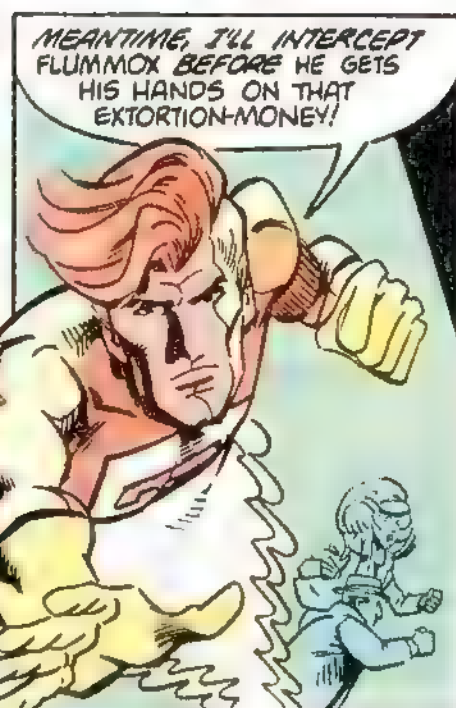
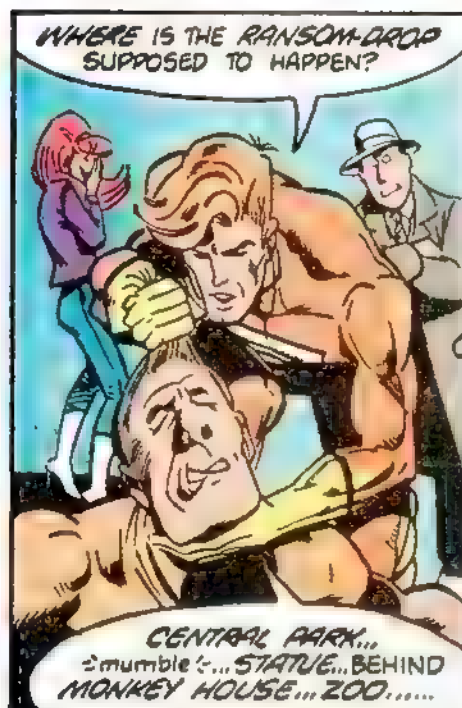


1. ENWAKEULATE: to make wakeful, as from sleep. 2. D.P.: Disagreeable Persons--organisms hostile to Technolography.
 3. VOID: exalted state of total entityhood in which the harmful effect of accumulated N-Bits has been removed.
 4. TECHNOLOGRAPHY: fancy new name for Floatingethics, coined as part of plan to thwart Internal Revenue Service. 5. FLOATINGETHICS: process by which a Prevold is Proctored to a State of Void.









AS YOU KNOW, TECHNOLOGY TEACHES THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SINGLE BLOW TO AN ORGANISM RESULTING IN IMMEDIATE UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND DEATH...

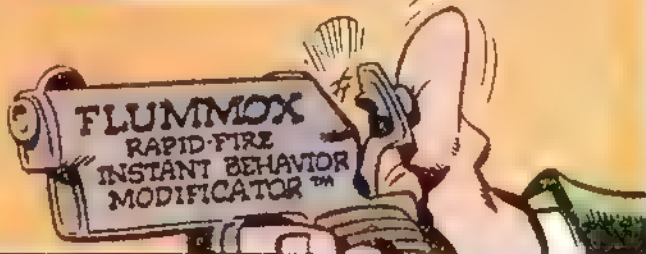
...AND A SERIES OF SMALL BLOWS OVER A LIFE-SPAN RESULTING IN EVENTUAL LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND DEATH.



BY ERASING THE MEMORIES OF ALL THE ACCUMULATED MENTAL AND PHYSICAL PAINS OF A LIFETIME, IN THE PROCESS CALLED PROCTORING...

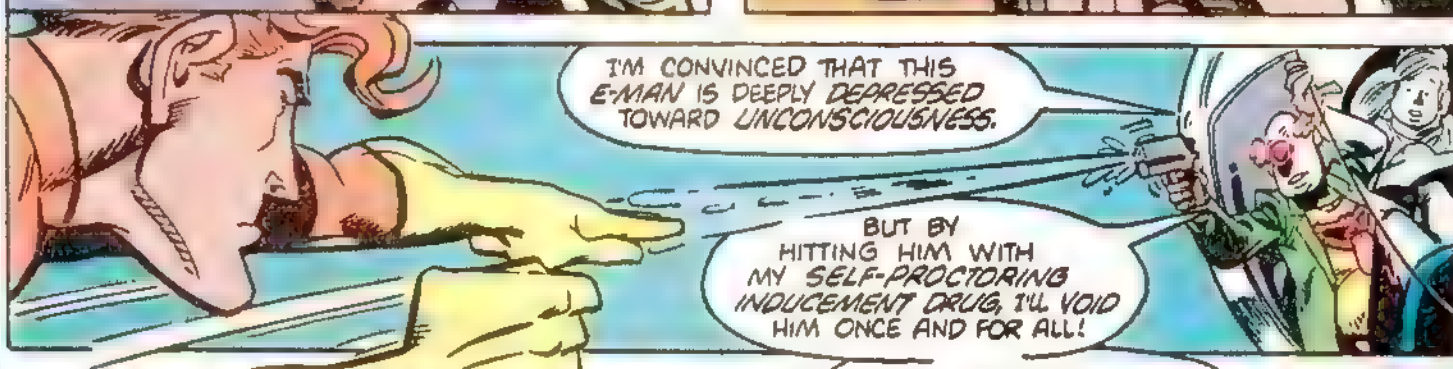
...WE INDUCE THE STATE CALLED VOID--RESTORING THE UNIT'S FULL CONSCIOUSNESS AND LIFE-POTENTIAL!

FLUMMOX
RAPID-FIRE
INSTANT BEHAVIOR
MODIFICATOR™



I'M CONVINCED THAT THIS E-MAN IS DEEPLY DEPRESSED TOWARD UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

BUT BY HITTING HIM WITH MY SELF-PROCTORING INDUCEMENT DRUG, I'LL VOID HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!



WHEN IT WIPES THE N-BITS¹ FROM HIS MNEMONIC SLATE²...

...HE'LL BE GRATEFUL FOR THE PEACE OF MIND I'VE BROUGHT HIM...

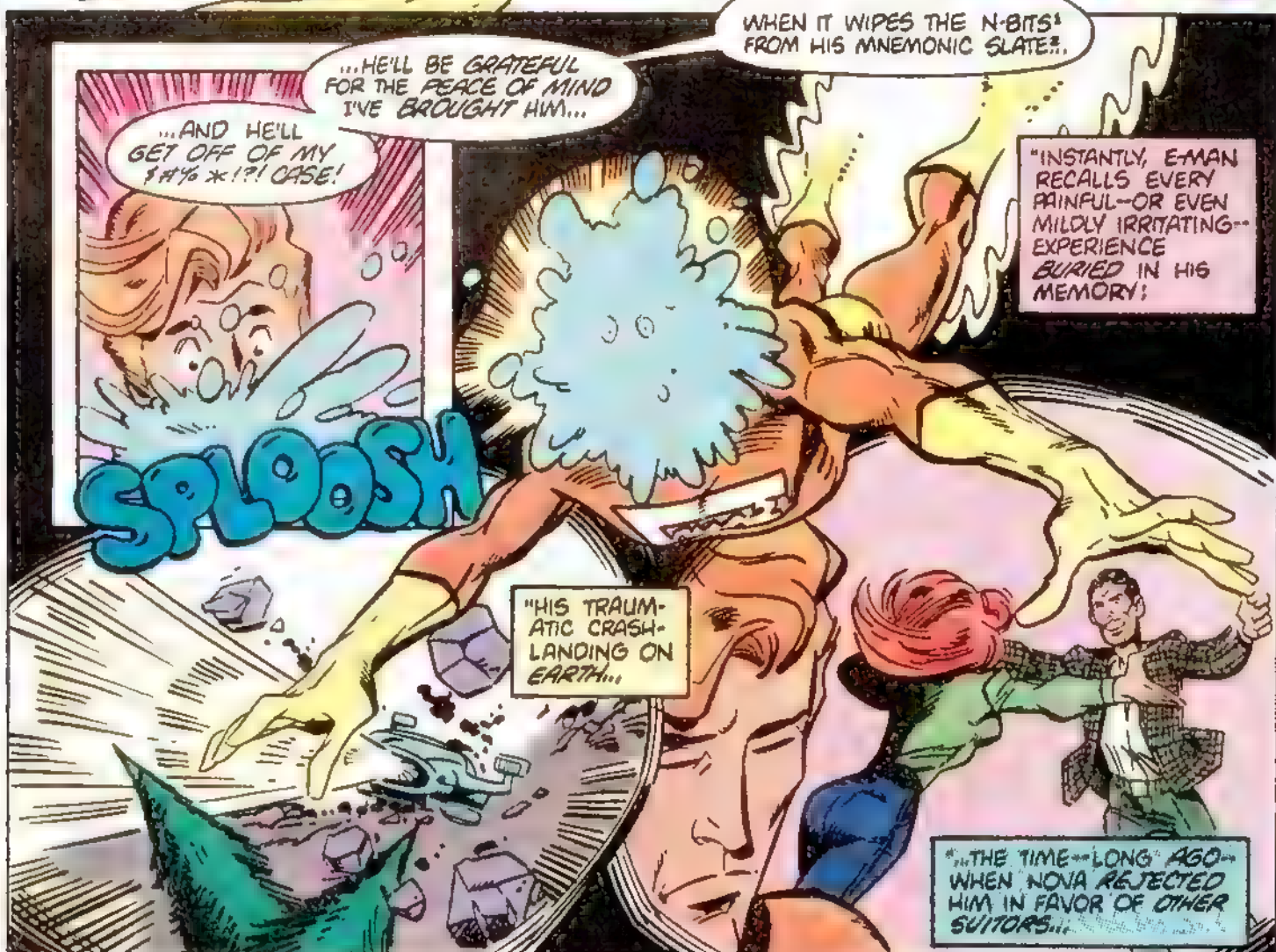
...AND HE'LL GET OFF OF MY \$4% *!?! CASE!

"INSTANTLY, E-MAN RECALLS EVERY PAINFUL--OR EVEN MILDLY IRRITATING--EXPERIENCE BURIED IN HIS MEMORY!

SPLOOSH

"HIS TRAUMATIC CRASH-LANDING ON EARTH..."

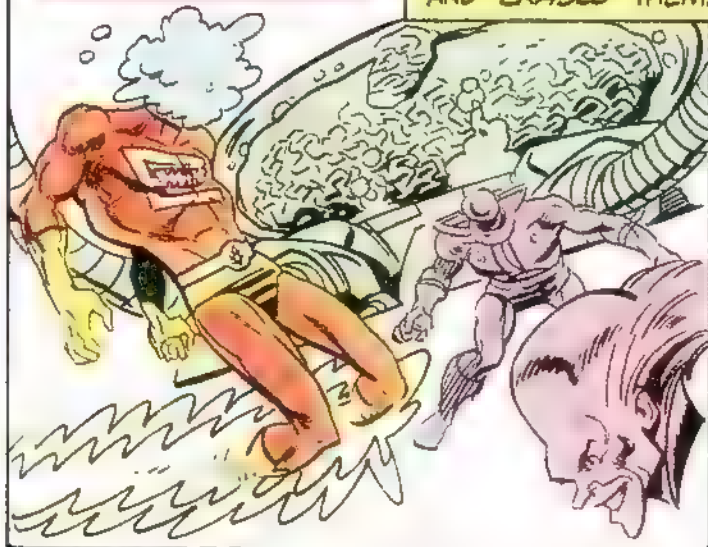
"...THE TIME--LONG AGO--WHEN NOVA REJECTED HIM IN FAVOR OF OTHER SUITORS..."



1. N-BITS: mental images of time of physical or mental pain. 2. MNEMONIC SLATE: sum total of the positive recollections and N-bits (a.k.a. 'memory'). 3. PEACE OF MIND: absence of thoughts which can create a nuisance for Elrod Flummox.

"...EVERY PAIN INFLICTED ON HIM THIS FAR IN HIS BRIEF CAREER AS A SUPER HERO..."

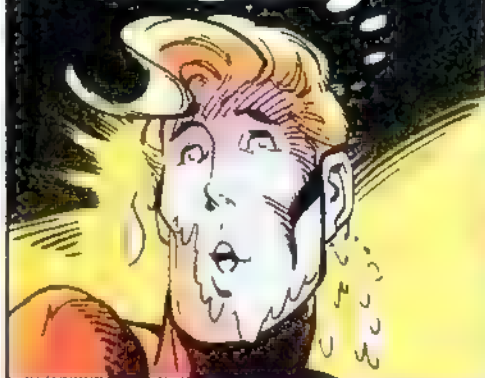
"...AND--IN THE *PSUEDO-SPEAK* OF *TECHNOLOGY*--HE 'REDYNAMIZES' THESE EXPERIENTIO-RECORDS² IN HIS TEMPORAL PATH³ AND ERASES THEM!"



"BUT SINCE OUR PERSONALITIES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN THE SUM OF OUR EXPERIENCES, THE EFFECT OF THIS PROCESS ON E-MAN IS NOT MERELY TO BECALM HIM..."

"...BUT TO REDUCE HIS MIND TO A *TABULA RASA*...TO VEG HIM OUT! I MEAN, WE'RE TALKING FLAT S.E.G. * HERE!"

PEACE. HARMONY. MELLOWNESS.



*ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAM; MEASURES BRAIN ACTIVITY--MIKE.

"OR WE WOULD BE--IF E-MAN WERE JUST AN ORDINARY GUY! BUT HE'S NOT..."

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS STUFF'S EVEN WORSE THAN THAT TRANQUILIZER!

GOT TO FIGHT IT--!



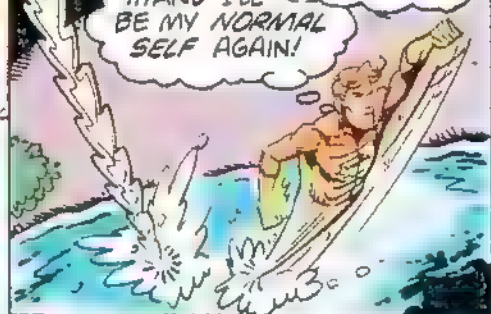
"HIS SPIRIT...HIS WILL...IS STRONGER! HE IS MADE OF STERNER STUFF!"

"HE'S GOT TO BE--HE'S THE STAR OF HIS OWN COMIC BOOK, FOR CHRISSAKE!"

I'LL JUST TAKE A 'DIP'!

...AND WASH OFF THIS STUFF...

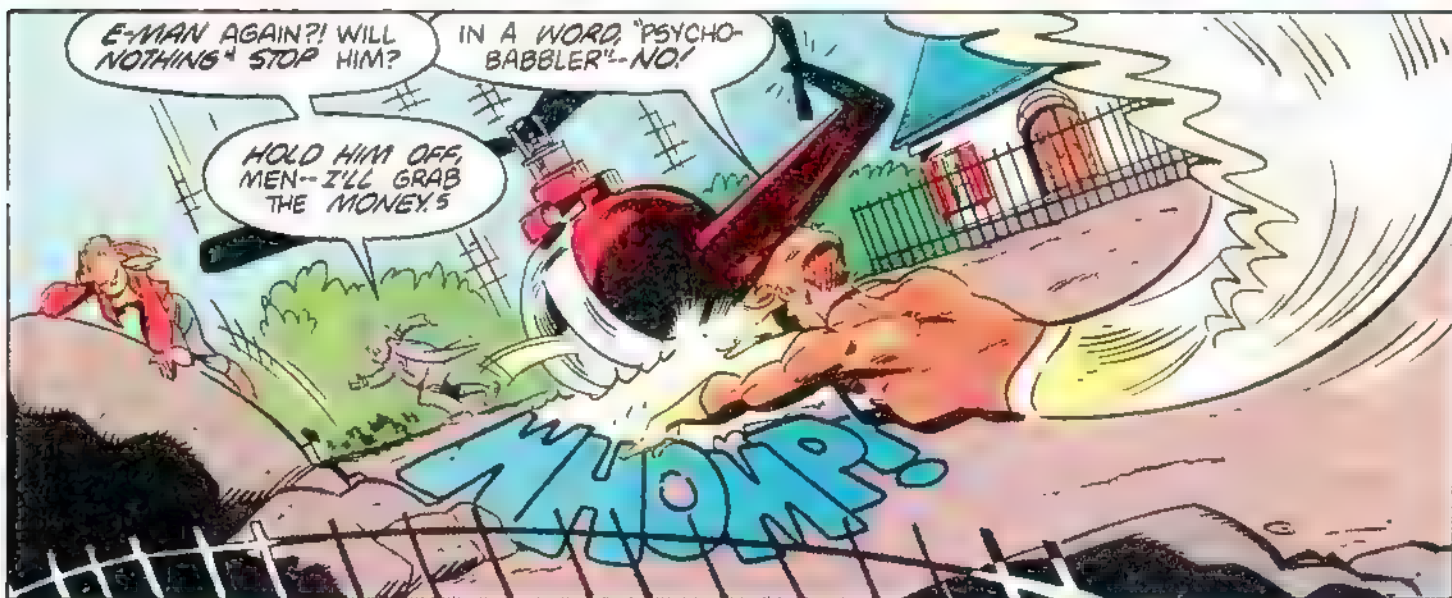
...AND I'LL BE MY NORMAL SELF AGAIN!



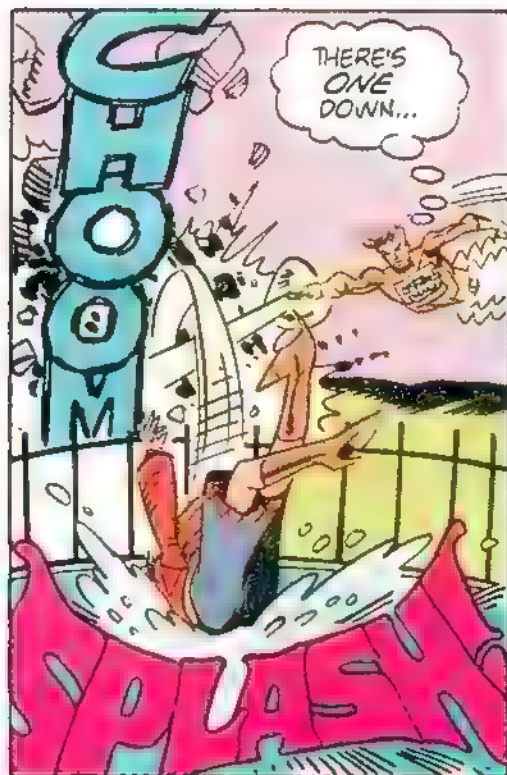
E-MAN AGAIN?! WILL NOTHING⁴ STOP HIM?

IN A WORD, "PSYCHO-BABBLER"--NO!

HOLD HIM OFF, MEN--I'LL GRAB THE MONEY⁵



¹ REDYNAMIZE: to recall vividly; re-enact, experience again. ² EXPERIENTIO-RECORDS: memories. ³ TEMPORAL PATH: all the consecutive moments of "now," from the earliest moment of life to the present. ⁴ NOTHING: not anything ⁵ MONEY: green stuff.



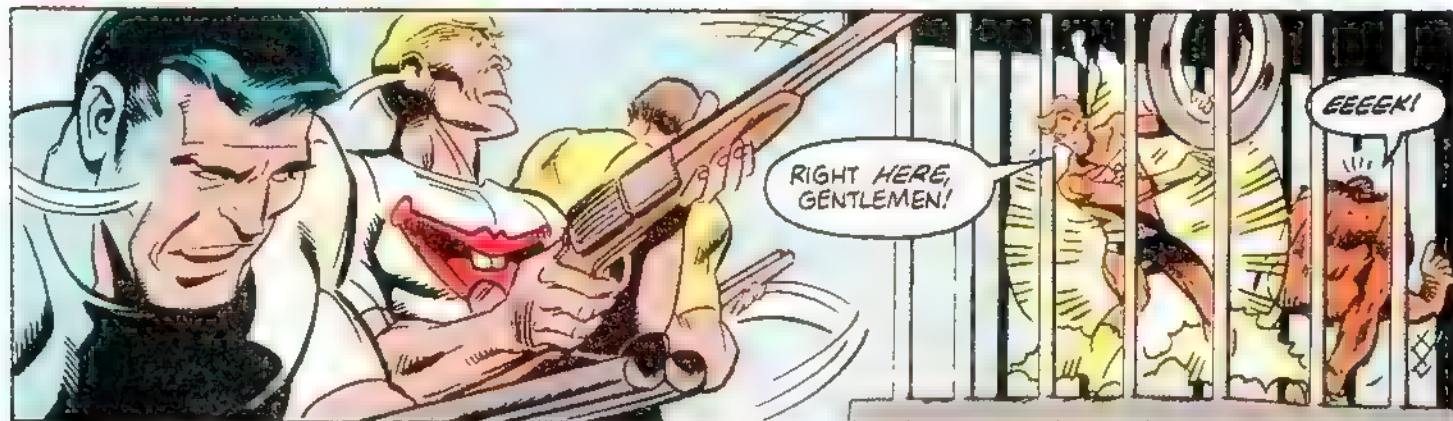
THERE'S
ONE
DOWN...



...AND THREE MORE
TO GO, BEFORE I CAN
DEAL WITH THE
"MAIN MAN!"

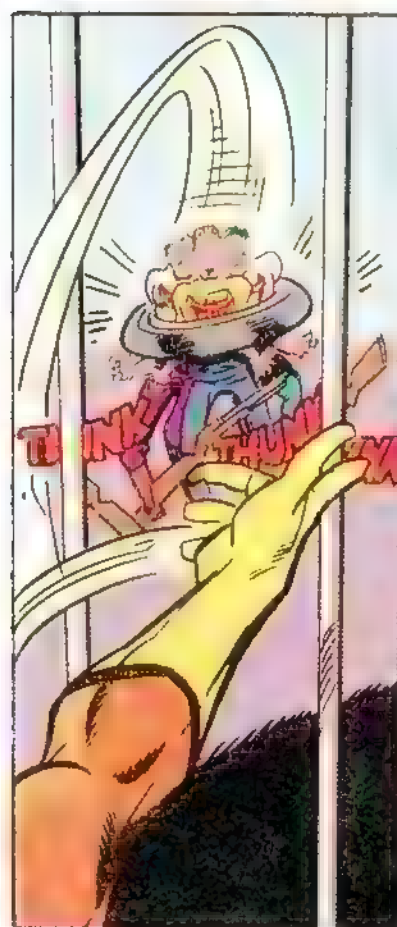
EEK?!

WHERE'D
THAT
ENERGY-
FREAK
GO?!



RIGHT HERE,
GENTLEMEN!

EEEEEE!



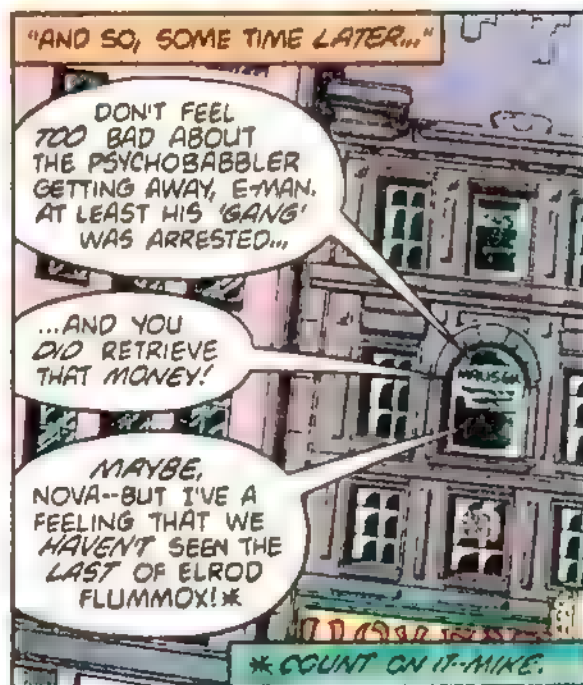
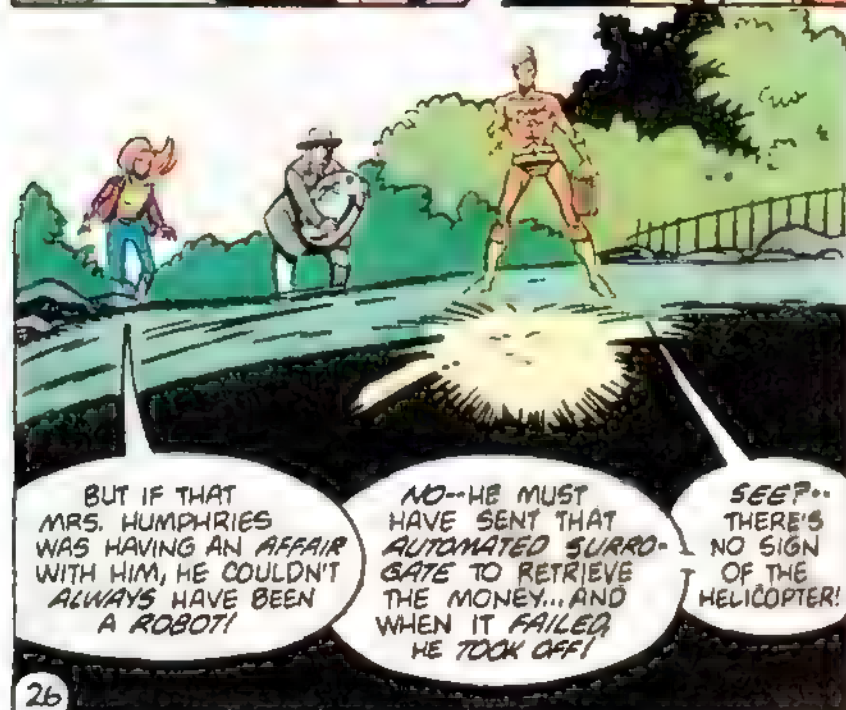
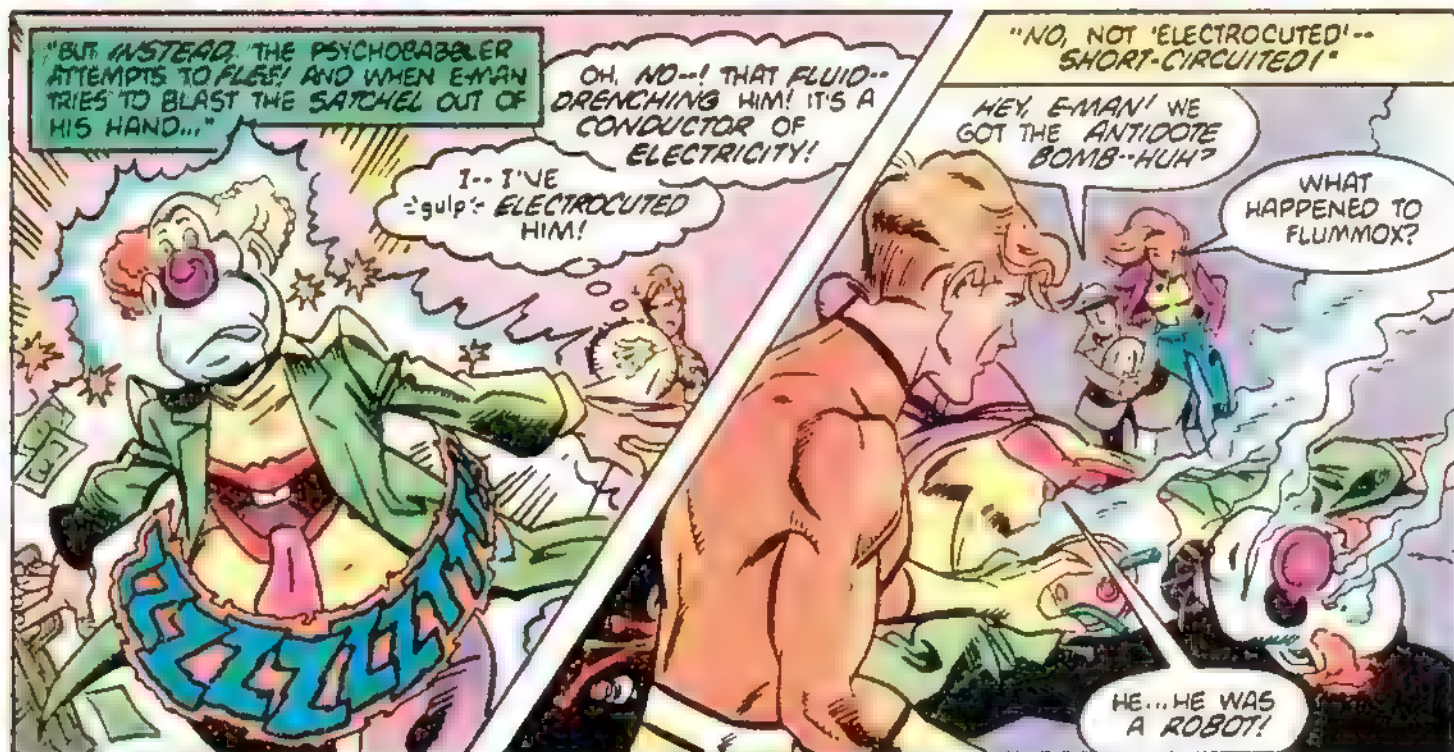
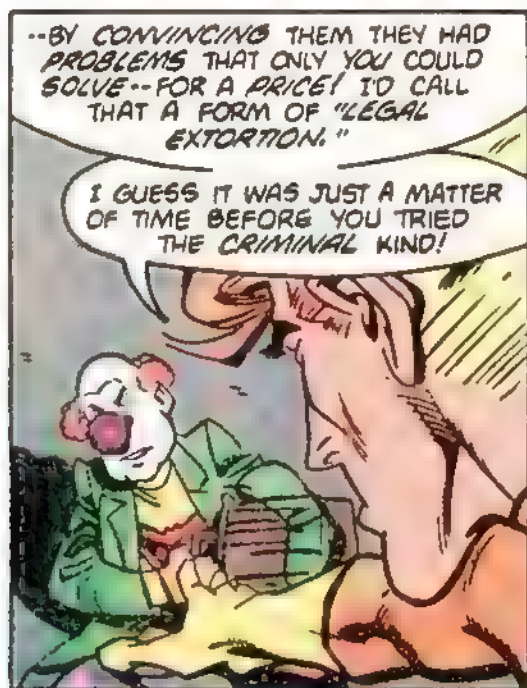
"AND, MOMENTS
LATER, BEHIND THE
MONKEY HOUSE..."

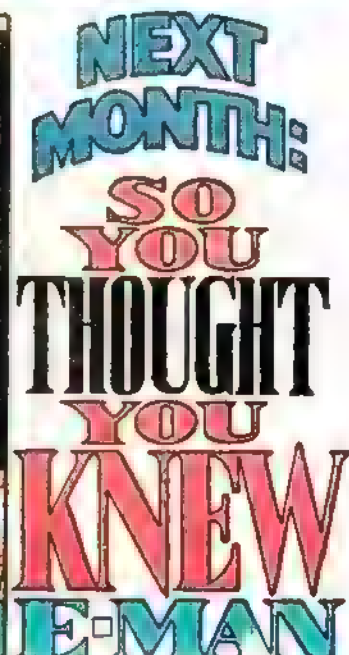
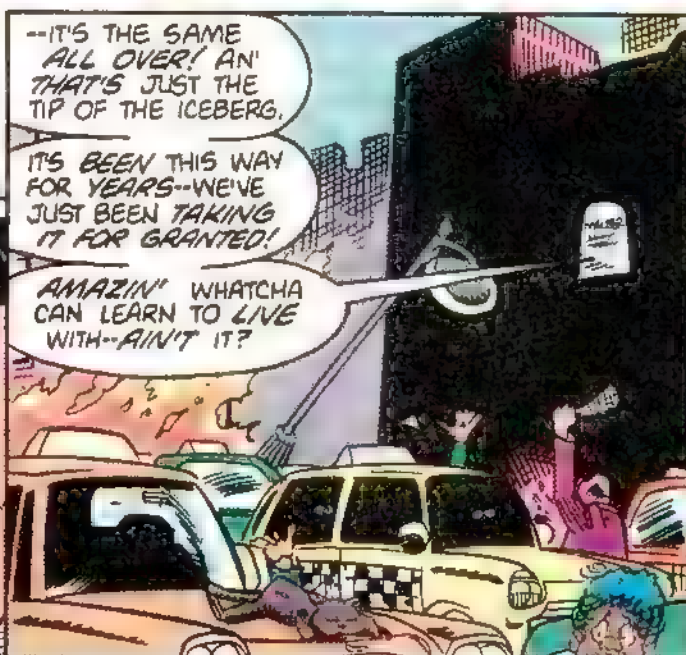
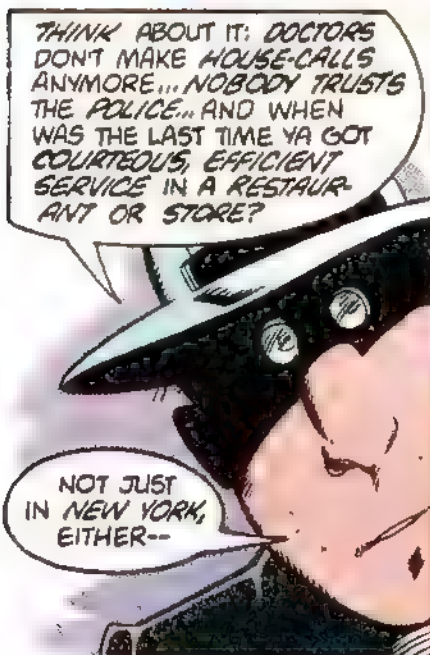
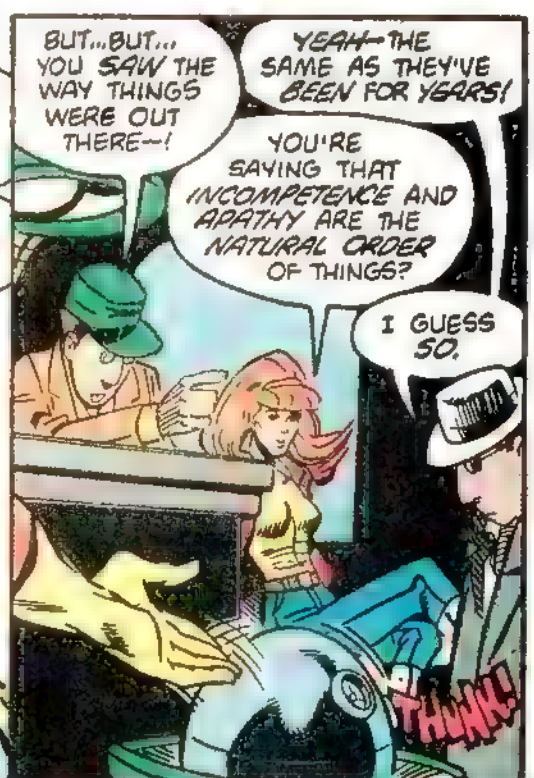
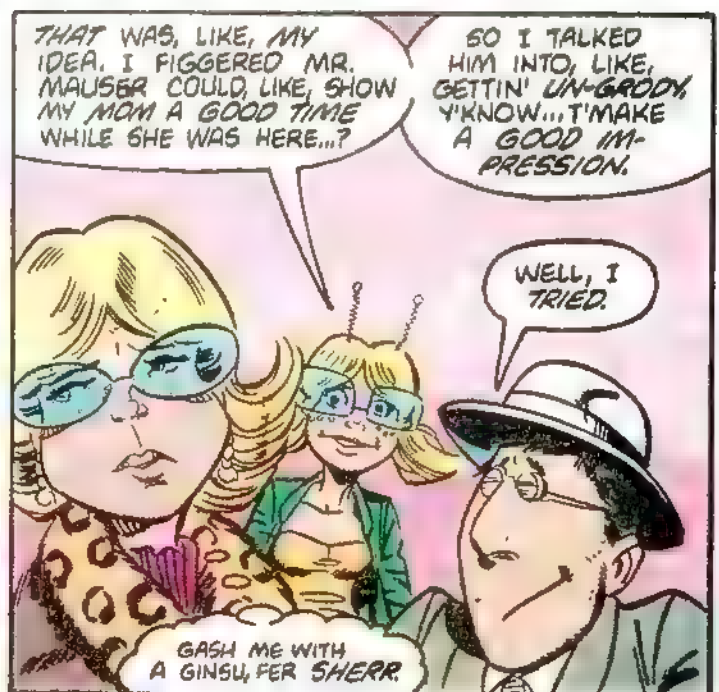
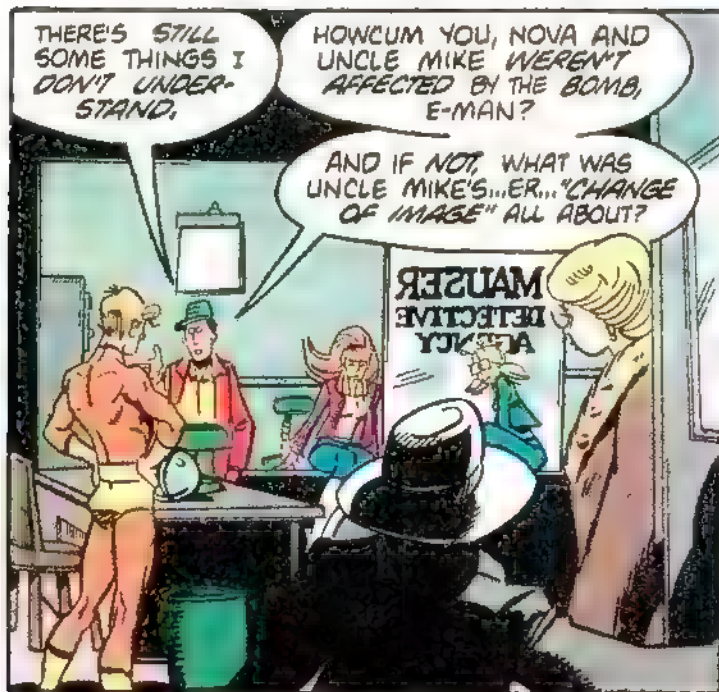
I'VE GOT
IT! I'VE GOT THE
MONEY! I'M A
BILLIONAIRE!!

HOMELESS
BAG LADY
MEMORIAL

FIGURES.
FOR YEARS, YOU'VE
BEEN BILKING PATHETIC,
GULLIBLE PEOPLE OUT
OF THEIR HARD-
EARNED CASH--

1. BILLIONAIRE: very rich person.





E-MAIL



%FIRST COMICS, 1014 DAVIS STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Dear Mickey:

E-Man is great, but I want to know who one of the minor characters is. I am thinking about the animal who lives in Nova's apartment who appears to be a cross between an overgrown teddy bear and a dog. Who is he? What is he? Where did he come from? Does he watch Dallas? Is he from another planet? Is it true that I ask a lot of questions? And lastly, is he, heaven forbid, Spot?

Gary Brase
553 N. Westlawn
Fresno, CA

No, he's Teddy Q., and he's our hero. He does not watch Dallas, finding it to be beneath him. Except for the fact that we're about to make him our Circulation Director, saying anything more would be telling. Too telling.

Dear Mike and Joe

I can't believe I'm really doing this. It can't be happening. I'm actually writing a fan letter. I've read thousands of comics in the last ten years and not one of them gave me even the slightest urge to comment on it.

E-Man is different ... I have to comment on Joe Staton's great artwork, the extremely funny and ... dare I say it ... literate writing of Martin Pasko ... even the paper is uniquely white with the artwork looking crisp and sharp (most comics look like they're being read underwater). If there is a comic on the market worth commenting on, E-Man is it.

I first saw Staton's artwork on and in the old TAPS publications more years ago than I want to think about, and every time I've eyeballed his work since then it's been better than the last. I can't wait for #3 or #4 or ... just keep it up. You're turning me into a happy comics fan again — even if I will have a hard time reading a certain company's number one selling comic book again — at least not without a smile.

Dwain G. Kaiser
169 N. Euclid
Upland, CA

"Eyeballing?"

Dear Mike,

"F As In Freak" was a major step in the right direction. It's been a long time since I sat down and really laughed while reading a comic book.

It wasn't so much that the characters were funny, it was the whole situation! I will highly recommend E-Man to a lot of my collecting friends. This stuff was

really a nice change of pace from regular superhero comics.

I loved the "parallel view" of comic book characters on page 19. "Stanley Presents," "Sniper," and "Companyman" was the best take off in the entire book. Hey, you guys can't get in trouble about that, can ya?

I wouldn't doubt if your readers started

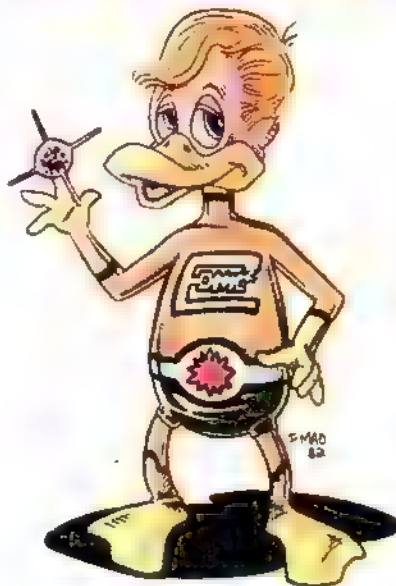


ILLUSTRATION BY FRANCIS MAD

begging for you to give the F-Men their own book.

I wish you a lot of luck and I await #3 with baited breath.

Stephen Scott Beau Smith
110 Lewis Ave. Apt. #7
Barboursville, WV

No plans on giving the "F-Men" their own book. "Sniper," maybe, but not the "F-Men."

However, don't be too surprised if you see something like "Swamp Trek" in an upcoming issue of The Uncanny X-Men.

Dear Marty,

Albert Einstein. This man is the most abused real-life figure in comics. And your treatment of him is the worst. Not only does this genius come across as an imbecile, but the horribly accented dialogue his character spouts is barely intelligible, which deadens the pace of the stories. Both he and the series

deserve better. Please let him fade out soon.

Skip Wegwerth
1145 Marshall Ave.
St. Paul Park, MN

You may have a point, Skip, and we are considering deep-sixing Einstein. Elliott Maggin had a wonderful characterization of him in his first Superman novel — but we are beginning to think that, with each passing issue, his character is adding less and less to the story. We'll see — stay tuned

Dear First Gang

E-Man is lovely. I don't know the original Charlton adventures (and so have, much to my libidinous disappointment, missed Nova on stage in her work clothes), but I can tell you that the two issues from First are a thing of wonder — truly funny, as opposed to the embarrassingly sophomoric that, in comicland, often passes for the real thing.

Staton's artwork is lovingly done, in a way much more reminiscent of the caring, detailed work of someone like Walt Kelly or Carl Barks than of most current superhero artists — but your letter column (the title of which, by the by, is the single dullest thing in the book) in issue #2 is surfeited enough with Staton's praises so that I'd like to throw a laud or two Pasko's way for rich, rollicking and exactly choreographed writing.

I spent my first 21 years in Chicago, saw all of the original Warp productions at the Body Politic (circa 1972), and bought many a comic book at the Evanston newsstand (on Chicago and Main is it?). Nice to know there's some solid, professional comic book activity going on in the shadow of Northwestern University.

And now that Einstein's in the limelight, let's see comic series hosted by Jacob Bronowski, Mircea Eliade, Joseph Campbell, Michel Foucault, Roland Barthes, and Jaques Derrida? How about having Teddy Q. sneak up on Garfield from behind and ...

Albert Goldbarth
3105 Grooms
Austin, TX

Let's put all this Staton-praise in perspective: if you don't like the artist's work, chances are you won't buy the book, and if you don't buy the book, chances are you won't write a letter. Still, you won't find a bigger Staton fan than yours truly, Albert.

E-Mail, by the by, is a hold-over from

the Charlton days. We're open to suggestion: should we change the title of this-here letters page? What should we change it to? Write today!

Dear Mike, Marty, Joe and Bruce

Welcome to the wonderful, ever-expanding world of independent direct sales publishing. We in the midwest are delighted to have our very own comic book publishing company.

I'm an E-Man fan from the days of Charlton. There, I've admitted it. I won't bore you with tales of emotional upheavals at E-Man's timely resurrection, though. Suffice it to say that the first episode of the new series blows away all previous E-Man work, and very possibly all previous Joe Staton work. I was a big fan of Joe's Justice Society. I was placated but not terribly amused by the Pasko/Staton Plastic Man series. I don't usually like funny comics — I like E-Man, though. The new E-Man is tongue-in-cheek, sophisticated-funny instead of beat-you-over-the-head I'm FUNNY FUNNY FUNNY-funny.

The new E-Man is dazzling. The heightened color-reproduction, the clever scripting, the impossible rate at which the sight-gags come without ceasing on each and every page. This is E-Man, and Michael Mauser, Nova Kane, and — dare I say it? — Albert Einstein as they were meant to be! I hope we haven't heard the last of Dr. Einstein. His appearance here lifted the story to the level of Kurt Vonnegut. And that's about the level of quality I'll expect to be getting.

I do have a question: who owns E-Man now? I read somewhere that First assigned the rights to Joe and Nicola Cuti, but the copyright is in First's name. Also, I notice that you now own all the thoughts I had while reading E-Man. This is certainly not fair since I didn't notice that until after I finished reading it. If I had known, I certainly would not have thought the same things.

Stephen Gawronski
Somewhere Around
Evanston

Hey, Stephen, we put that notice in our *indicia*, which appears before you get to the story — so you're on your own. Then again, we've read your thoughts, such as they were, and believe me, you can keep 'em!

Without getting into legal/copyright/trademark nonsense I already addressed in this month's **Warp** letter column, let me tell you this: First is, as of this writing, in the process of transferring the rights to **E-Man**, and don't mistake copyright notice for legal ownership.

As for Albert Einstein, perhaps you should give Skip Wegwerth (above) a call, and duke it out or something.

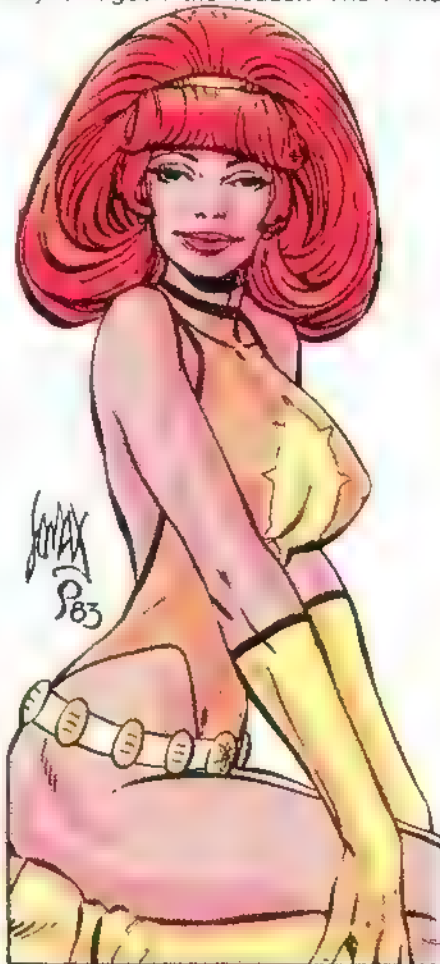
Dear Sirs,

I wanted to write you all after reading the first issue of E-Man, but I decided to

wait rather than just base my opinion off of one issue. Now that I've read #2 and I think I've got a feel for the magazine, I'll speak up.

My initial reaction was shock. Pasko and Staton have taken a completely different direction in the style. Before, the mood of E-Man was one of Fun; now the humor has turned to satire and is given top priority. Instead of being a superhero book with occasional comic relief, E-Man is now a satire magazine with the superhero angle pushed into the background.

Now there is nothing wrong with that. I find the stories to be very funny, but sometimes the jokes are overpowering. Some of the ideas are so obvious that they bludgeon the reader. The F-Men



parody is a good example of this, the long speeches that everyone makes are just as tiresome as if Chris Claremont really did write them.

Still, I enjoy E-Man very much and plan to continue reading it. Staton's art has taken an early-Mad look to it, and it complements the stories perfectly. Pasko has obviously taken pains to make Alec and Nova convincing characters. Still, sometimes they seem to become little more than straight men for the characters around them.

Scott Campbell
509 E. 1st
Bloomington, IN

Your last comment, Scott, is one we've taken to heart: Marty had worked out all kinds of interesting things to say about the Tronni/Kane relationship. Whereas you will note they have been there, we are bringing them out to the forefront in

upcoming issues. And you will be seeing more of a superhero feel to **E-Man**, without losing the elements of satire.

Dear Marty and Joe,

Just last week I bought my copy of E-Man #2. I'm still laughing!

I only wish I could see the look on certain Marvel staff members' faces when they read it, particularly John, Dave and Chris. I hope you have given them fair warning.

Much as I admire Chris' work, you certainly did a job on him. Keep up the good work.

By the way, are you thinking of doing an Elfquest or Cerebus satire?

"Sheila"

Somewhere in Sydney,
N S W, Australia

I'll tell you John's reaction, "Sheila": he told us he thought we should have torn into him a bit more. I guess when you can turn out 46 pages of first-class pencils and inks and 68 pages of script each and every month, you get cocky.

As for the Cerebus satire: we considered it, but decided doing a satire of Cerebus is a whole lot like doing Conan straight.

Dear Gold, Pasko and Staton:

E-Man is back and two issues old and I couldn't be happier. The creative team of Pasko and Staton, favorites of mine since their Plastic Man days, are the best possible choice to handle the book. The narrations by Einstein, the splash pages that would do Jack Cole or Will Eisner proud, the quality of the humor, make E-Man the best comic on the market.

And now, if I may, a few quick comments.

The first two issues have been so thick with satire that you practically have to pry the pages apart. No problem there, however, do you plan to try to keep E-Man primarily a humor comic? I certainly hope so. I also hope that if you finally do decide to run a back-up feature in E-Man that you also keep it light and funny.

I would also encourage you to keep Mauser as a supporting character, although I wasn't too thrilled with Debbie Webbe. I would hate to see every issue become a superhero parody — there are enough things to humorize in politics, pop-culture and other areas.

T.E. Pouncey
1651 Kenmar
Wichita, KS

How about religion, T.E.?

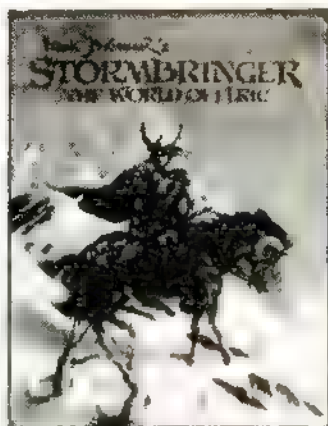
Let's see: this issue, we've been compared favorably with Jack Cole, Will Eisner, Walt Kelly, Mad Comics... I think we should quit while we're ahead.

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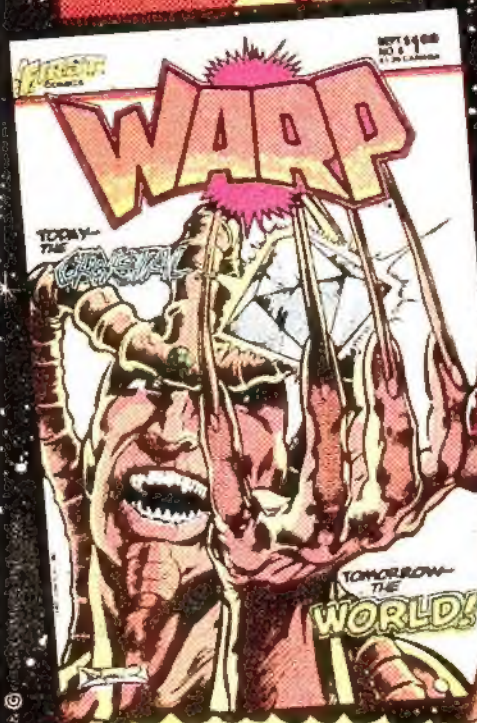


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